

Battering Intervention and Prevention Program (BIPP) Accreditation Guidelines

Effective April 2014

**Texas Department of Criminal Justice
Community Justice Assistance Division**



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Section I: Introduction

Words that are in **bold** and *italicized* have been defined and can be found in Appendix B: Glossary.

Mission Statements

Texas Department of Criminal Justice

The mission of the Texas Department of Criminal Justice is to provide public safety, promote positive change in **offender** behavior, reintegrate **offenders** into society, and assist **victims** of crime.

Community Justice Assistance Division

The mission of the Community Justice Assistance Division is to be accountable, responsive, and effective stewards of funding and other resources by assisting our collaborative partners to promote safer communities through rehabilitative services for offenders and protections of victims' rights.

Battering Intervention and Prevention Programs

The mission of **battering** intervention and prevention **programs** in Texas is to eliminate male to female **intimate partner violence** by providing services to **batterers**, promoting safety for **victims**, and bringing about social change necessary to end **battering** and all other forms of abuse.

Section II: Preface

History and Development

The **Battering** Intervention and Prevention **Program (BIPP)** Guidelines were developed for the Texas Department of Criminal Justice-Community Justice Assistance Division (TDCJ-CJAD) by the **BIPP** Strategic Planning Work Group of the Texas Council on Family Violence (TCFV) in 1993-1994. These guidelines became effective September 1, 1995.

In early 1998, TCFV and TDCJ-CJAD formed a committee to examine the **BIPP** Guidelines and propose revisions, additions, and deletions. This revision of the **BIPP** Guidelines became effective as of December 1, 1999.

Battering Intervention and Prevention Program Accreditation

During the 80th Texas Legislative Session, Senate Bill 44 was passed (Texas Code of Criminal Procedure, Article 42.141). This Code relates to the provision of intervention or counseling services for persons who have committed *family violence* and to a process for accrediting those services.

In late 2007, TDCJ-CJAD formed a committee to examine the **BIPP** Guidelines for **program accreditation**. The committee was comprised of representatives from TDCJ-CJAD funded and non-funded **Battering** Intervention and Prevention **Programs (BIPPs)**, **family violence program**, Community **Supervision** and Corrections Departments (CSCDs), TDCJ-Parole Division, medical examiners, psychologists, marriage and family therapists, licensed professional counselors, social workers, and other professionals.

Following the recommendations of the committee, TDCJ-CJAD and TCFV submitted a draft to the committee members, **BIPPs**, licensing authorities described by Chapters 152, 501, 502, 503, 505, Occupations Code and other stakeholders for their review and comments. Their recommendations were incorporated into the **BIPP Accreditation Guidelines** that were effective as of July 2009.

In 2013, TDCJ-CJAD, in consultation with TCFV, examined and revised the **BIPP Accreditation Guidelines** and submitted a draft to all accredited programs, stakeholders, and TDCJ-CJAD auditors. Their recommendations have been incorporated in the 2014 guidelines.

Purpose

The purpose of the Guidelines is to clarify the **program** and administrative standards under which an **accredited program** must operate if they are to receive **accreditation** by TDCJ-CJAD.

The Texas Code of Criminal Procedure, Article 42.141 (See Appendix C), defines the nature and consequences of **family violence** and establishes the parameters of **BIPPs**. Because the preponderance of **family violence** is male to female **battering**, it is important for **battering** intervention and prevention **programs** to acknowledge the gender-specific nature of that **violence**. **Accredited programs** may provide services to other populations (e.g. female and juvenile **batterers** or anger management groups). However, **accreditation** issued by TDCJ-CJAD is solely for the purpose of providing **direct services** to adult males.

Section III: Guidelines

Program Operations

Background Checks

GUIDELINE # 1

Accredited programs shall develop a policy on completing background checks on all persons who will provide direct **battering** intervention services to **family violence offenders**, including both paid and unpaid positions. Background checks shall be documented and kept in each **staff** member's personnel or administration file.

At a minimum, the policy shall require:

1. Both Texas Crime Information Center (TCIC) and National Crime Information Center (NCIC) fingerprint background checks to be conducted.
2. Background checks to be completed before providing **direct services** to **batterers** and to be conducted at a minimum of once every three years from an employee's date of hire.
3. The development of criteria regarding eligibility of **staff** candidates with criminal backgrounds.
4. The development of procedures regarding addressing criminal background convictions and protective orders for current **staff** members.

See Appendix A for Supplemental Information and Forms

Best Practice: Former **batterers** who want to work directly with **batterers** should have successfully completed a BIPP Program. Former batterers should have lived **violence-free** for 3-5 years before providing direct service to batterers.

Initial Training Requirements

GUIDELINE # 2

Accredited programs shall document **initial training** for new **staff**. **Staff** working directly with **batterers** and/or supervising **staff** who work directly with **batterers** shall document **initial training** hours according to the following parameters:

1. Documentation of training hours completed must be kept on file and available for TDCJ-CJAD review and approval. A list of CJAD approved training opportunities is available in the appendix.
2. Forty hours (15 hours of **family violence** and 25 hours of **battering** intervention) must be completed. CJAD-approved topics are listed in the appendix.
3. Ethics training hours are limited to six hours.
4. Training hours must be completed within six months of the date of employment; and

5. Training hours must be completed before working **unsupervised** with **batterers**.
6. In-house training will be documented to include **staff** attendance list, date, time and training topics.

Exception: If **staff** meets the following criteria, they may qualify for a reduced number of initial training hour requirements.

Licensed four years and four years working in the field of battering intervention¹

Licensed counselors, social workers, marriage and family therapists, psychologists, and psychiatrists who have been licensed for four or more years and worked in the in the field of **battering** intervention for four or more years working directly with **batterers** and are in good standing with their licensing boards shall document and submit **initial training** hours according to the following parameters:

1. Documentation of training hours completed must be kept on file and available for TDCJ-CJAD review and approval. A list of CJAD approved training opportunities is available in the appendix.
2. Fifteen hours (5 hours of **family violence** and 10 hours of **battering** intervention) must be completed. CJAD-approved topics are listed in the appendix.
3. Ethics training hours are limited to six hours.
4. Training hours must be completed within six months of the date of employment; and
5. Training hours must be completed before working **unsupervised** with **batterers**.
6. In-house training will be documented to include **staff** attendance list, date, time and training topics.

See Appendix A for sample form.

BEST PRACTICE: Paid or volunteer administrative support **staff** should have knowledge of the **program's** mission, policies and TDCJ-CJAD BIPP **Accreditation** Guidelines.

Staff Development

GUIDELINE # 3

Accredited programs shall document **staff development** for current **staff** members. **Staff development** shall be documented and kept in each **staff** member's personnel file and completed in two-year intervals after the first year of employment. Staff development may be accumulated after initial training is complete.

¹ "Working in the field of battering intervention" includes 1) working in a BIPP program that is funded by TDCJ-CJAD; 2) providing sufficient documentation that, during the previous four year period, your program substantially followed a BIPP curriculum or reasonable equivalent; OR 3) providing a letter of good standing from at least one of the following entities: a) a court, that during the previous four years, has referred a substantial number of batterers to the provider for battering intervention services, b) a district or county attorney within the service area of the battering intervention provider, or c) a Health and Human Services Commission funded family violence program in the provider's service area.

Licensed Professionals

Licensed counselors, social workers, marriage and family therapists, psychologists, and psychiatrists and/or those who **supervise staff** who work directly with **batterers** shall document training hours according to the following parameters:

1. Twenty four hours every two years specifically in the area of **family violence** and **battering** intervention (8 hours of **family violence** and 16 hours of **battering** intervention) must be completed.
2. Ethics training hours are limited to six hours.
3. Twelve hours can be completed through online trainings (i.e. webinar, online modules, etc.)

Non-licensed and Other Professionals

Non-licensed counselors and other professionals (full-time or part-time, contractors, interns, and volunteers) and/or those who **supervise staff** who work directly with **batterers** shall document training hours according to the following parameters:

1. Forty hours every two years specifically in the area of **family violence** and **battering** intervention (15 hours of **family violence** and 25 hours of **battering** intervention) must be completed.
2. Ethics training hours are limited to six hours.
3. Twenty hours can be completed through online trainings (i.e. webinar, online modules, etc.)

See Appendix A for sample form.

Staff Supervision

GUIDELINE # 4

Accredited programs shall provide **supervision** for staff who work directly with **batterers** and must document a minimum of one hour of **supervision** once every four weeks and adhere to the following parameters:

1. Documentation is to be kept in a personnel or administrative file and should include names of **staff** receiving **supervision**, **staff** member providing **supervision**, and the date, time, format and topics covered during each **supervision** session.
2. Topics including general administration and non-BIPP related items will not be accepted as **supervision**.
3. **Staff supervising staff who work directly with batterers and individual providers** may obtain peer-to-peer **supervision** with a supervisor from another fully accredited **program**. Supervision may be conducted face-to-face or through another means of telecommunication. Supervision can include but is not limited to:

- Peer **supervision** group debriefing;

- Discussion of ethical dilemmas;
- **Victim safety planning;**
- **Batterer's** goal revisions; and
- Group observation and/or feedback shall not account for more than 50% of the **supervision** requirement.
- Receiving feedback from **family violence** professionals with experience working with **victims** and/or **batterers**.

Case Records

GUIDELINE # 5

Accredited programs shall develop and maintain a centralized case record management system on **batterers** receiving BIPP services. Files should be kept for three years after **batterers** complete or are terminated from the **program**. A case records management system includes, but is not limited to:

1. **Assessments**
2. Signed written agreements, including **termination** policy, **program** obligations and **participant** obligations, and consequences for non-compliance;
3. **Confidentiality** and limits of **confidentiality**;
4. Signed group rules;
5. Progress reports to **referral sources** every month after **assessment** is completed. At minimum the report should provide referrals sources with information such as whether **batterers** are meeting attendance and participation requirements. Copies of the **compliance/attendance** reports shall be kept in **batterers'** files;
 - A. This documentation includes reports made within five (5) working days to court **mandated referral sources** of any known law violations, incidents of physical **violence** disclosed by **batterers**, and/or **termination** from the BIPP.
 - B. This documentation includes reports made within five (5) working days to other **referral sources**, incidents of physical **violence** disclosed by **batterers**, and/or **termination** from the BIPP.
6. **Batterers'** sworn statement of acknowledgement, if applicable. The only **victim** information that can be included in **batterers'** files is the **victim's** name, address, and phone numbers, if this information is provided by a **batterer**. If a **batterer** does not know the **victim** information, the **program** or **provider** shall have the **batterer** sign or initial a statement confirming they do not know this information;
7. Attendance records;
8. Referrals to other services and agencies;
9. Individualized plan; and
10. Payment schedule.

BEST PRACTICE: Licensed professionals that provide **direct services** to **batterers** should retain files for the number of years required by their respective licensing agency should those requirements exceed those detailed in the BIPP Accreditation Guidelines.

Confidentiality

GUIDELINE # 6

Accredited programs shall develop and document record keeping policies and procedures that promote **victim** safety and **confidentiality**. This policy should state that **separate files** shall be maintained for **batterers** and **victims**.

The only **victim** information that can be included in **batterer's** file is the **victim's** name, address, and phone numbers, only if provided by the respective **batterer** for the purposes of **victim/partner** contact.

GUIDELINE # 7

Accredited programs shall develop and document a policy for all participating **batterers** that includes a signed written agreement of **confidentiality**, and shall keep a copy on file which includes information disclosed by **batterers** during a) an **assessment**, b) group sessions and c) **exit** is confidential and shall not be shared with **victims**.

The policy shall also include the following limits to **confidentiality**:

1. **Batterers** are required to sign a "Consent for Release of Information," which permits information to be released to the **victim** relating to when **batterers** enter and **exit** the **program** and information on **program** length and **program** requirements;
2. **Batterers** are required to sign a "Consent for Release of Information" to the **referral source** and/or other designated entities indicated by a **batterer**;
3. **Batterers** are required to sign a statement that they have been informed that personal data and possibly additional information will be submitted to TDCJ-CJAD by the accredited program for the purposes of performing **program assessments** and other **research**;
4. **Batterers** are required to sign a "Consent for Release of Information" that informs **batterers** that when it is determined that there is probability of imminent physical injury to oneself or to others, **staff** will take safety initiatives and may, if appropriate, notify medical or law enforcement personnel and/or the **victim** and **referral source**;
5. Case records are subject to subpoena;
6. If the **assessment** or subsequent contact reveals the possibility of incidents of child abuse or neglect, or abuse of the elderly or disabled, it must be reported to the Texas Department of Family and Protective Services (TDFPS). (Refer to Appendices E and F)

GUIDELINE #8

Accredited programs shall develop a policy for all observers of **direct services** and those with access to **batterers'** and **victims'** records. The policy must include the administration of a signed written **confidentiality** agreement. The signed agreement must be kept on file. **Confidentiality** agreements must be kept on file for three years.

Confidentiality Pertaining to Community Education and Media Contact

GUIDELINE # 9

Accredited programs shall develop and document a policy that protects the **confidentiality** and safety of **victims** when a **participant** is in contact with the media or participating in **community education** activities arranged by the accredited **program**.

Accredited programs organizing a **community education** activity or media event where **batterers** are disclosing information about any family violence related incidents, which includes **victims'** identifying information, must:

1. Outline the parameters, defined by the **victim**, under which information can be disclosed
2. Obtain written consent from the related **batterer** and **victim**
3. Have present a BIPP **staff** member to ensure the parameters are followed

Fee Payment Scales and Procedures

GUIDELINE # 10

Accredited programs shall develop a written payment policy and fee schedule that establishes:

1. Payment is due at the time services are rendered and
2. A process for clearly communicating to **batterers** that financial consequences are a method of being held **accountable** for their behavior.

BEST PRACTICE: Accredited programs should have a sliding scale fee to reflect **batterers'** differing income levels. The sliding scale fee should accommodate indigent populations.

Program Duration

GUIDELINE # 11

Accredited programs' services shall consist of **Assessment** and **Orientation** and at least 36 hours of group sessions in a minimum of 18 weekly sessions, not to exceed one session per week.

Breaks, **assessments**, and **orientation** sessions are not to be included towards the 36 hours.

BEST PRACTICE: Accredited programs should conduct 52 weekly group sessions at a minimum to follow national models for behavior.

Program Format

GUIDELINE # 12

Men's groups shall not include female **participants**.

GUIDELINE # 13

Accredited programs' service component consisting of **Assessment** and **Orientation**, group sessions, and curriculum shall focus on ending **violence**, holding **batterers accountable** for their **violence**, abusive behaviors, and keeping **victims** safe.

Accredited programs shall offer services in which the primary approach is direct intervention with **batterers** in a **group format** that holds **batterers accountable** for their abusive behavior. Facilitators shall avoid **colluding** and shall encourage **batterers** to work towards positive behavioral changes.

The following examples are elements that will enhance **group format**; additional direct intervention approaches may also be utilized:

- Limiting groups to 15 **participants**; co-facilitated groups to 20 **participants** Assigning a consistent facilitator(s) to each group
- Arranging seating so **participants** face each other
- Facilitating a structured check-in at the beginning of each session in which **participants** report on the family violence related incident that brought them to the accredited program including current and past abusive behavior
- Incorporating role-play activities, group exercises and other interactive assignments
- Facilitating a wrap-up concluding each session to provide closure and to de-escalate heightened emotion while affirming the covered topics
- Assigning homework including any reflection activities, and/or projects that allows **batterers** to apply and further explore concepts
- Encouraging **batterers** who are ready for change to engage in elements of community service of community restitution designed to expand **batterers'** understanding of **family violence** and involvement in its prevention beyond the content of their weekly sessions
- Implementing programming beyond the BIPP duration minimums that promote **violence** prevention, self-help, and social support. This additional programming should reinforce the maintenance of **non-violence**, continue community service begun during group sessions, and addresses any additional issues e.g. parenting, job stress, intimacy, previous trauma, financial management, etc.

GUIDELINE # 14

Accredited program's group sessions shall focus on holding **batterers accountable** for their **violence**. During group sessions, facilitators shall **confront** and hold **batterers accountable** for instances of denial, blaming, minimizing, justifying, and rationalizing their behavior, regardless of

batterers' relationships, current stress factors, or previous trauma. Facilitators shall inform **batterers** that **battering** involves choices.

Facilitators will enhance group **accountability** by:

- Encouraging **batterers** to disclose accurate and detailed description of the most recent violent incident towards **victim** which lead them to their referral to BIPP.
- Encouraging **batterers** to hold each other **accountable** for their abusive behaviors
- Encouraging **batterers** to hold each other **accountable** for instances of denying, minimizing, justifying, and rationalizing
- Acknowledging and challenging inappropriate comments and jokes
- Incorporating discussion, activities, exercises that encourage empathy toward **victims** and others affected by **batterers'** abusive behaviors
- Encouraging **batterers** to identify the **victim** by first name ONLY

Program Curriculum

GUIDELINE # 15

Accredited programs shall use a written curriculum that has been approved by TDCJ-CJAD and is designed to end **violence** and abuse.

The **program** curriculum shall be based on an intervention model that recognizes **battering** as the result of one person in an intimate relationship systematically using tactics of emotional and physical abuse to maintain power and control over the other.

The program curriculum shall use approaches that encourage positive behavioral change without shaming batterers as well as approaches that create dialogue and do not solely lecture to **batterers**.

Best Practice: Accredited programs should adjust curriculum to account for participants' literacy levels and adult learning style.

The curriculum shall include:

1. An approach that assigns responsibility for **violence** solely to **batterers**, clarifies that **family violence** is not provoked, and provides a strategy for assisting **batterers** in taking responsibility for the **violence** and abuse;
2. Content that encourages the **batterers** to develop critical thinking skills that will allow them to rethink their behavior and identify behavior choices other than **violence**;
3. Content that supports the belief that **family violence** and abuse is primarily a learned and/or chosen behavior and that **non-violence** can be chosen instead;
4. Content that includes information on the relationship between substance abuse and **family violence** and explains that **family violence** is not the result of substance abuse;
5. Content that teaches non-violent discipline of children;
6. Content that promotes **batterers'** empathy for **victims'** experience and the negative effects their abuse has caused the **victims** and their families;
7. Content that identifies sexual abuse as a form of **violence**;
8. Content that includes the effects of **family violence** on children.

The following items may be included in the portion of the curriculum pertaining to the effects on children:

- A. Discussions and exercises designed to help **batterers** develop empathy for the impact their **violence** has had on their partners or children
- B. Information on child development and realistic and unrealistic expectations of children at various ages;

When necessary, **accredited programs** may partner with experts with demonstrated knowledge of family violence offender dynamics in parent education, child abuse, and child development to provide an accurate impression about the effects of **family violence** on children

The curriculum shall also teach elements of a non-violent lifestyle by incorporating the following elements:

9. Content designed to identify feelings that increase the **batterers'** ability to use personal choice so they can stop using **violence** and abuse towards others;
10. Content that teaches effective communication skills and listening with empathy;
11. Content designed to explain negotiation and conflict resolution skills;
12. Content that challenges stereotypical gender role expectations and supports an egalitarian relationship;
13. Development of a **non-violence plan**, including for example, strategies for helping **batterers** develop a non-violent support system;
14. Content that identifies the effects of distorted thinking on emotions and abusive behaviors;
15. Content that includes sexual respect;
16. Content that includes prevention of future **violence**

The **program** curriculum and/or group sessions shall not include the following:

1. Anger management techniques that identify anger as the cause of **family violence**;
2. Theories or techniques that identify poor impulse control as the primary cause of **family violence** or identify psychopathology on the part of the either party as the primary cause of **family violence**;
3. Marriage or couples counseling.

Assessment Procedures

GUIDELINE # 16

Accredited programs shall conduct an **assessment** which focuses on holding **batterers accountable** for their abusive behaviors and **violence** and keeping **victims** safe.

During **assessment**, **accredited programs** shall gather information as to **batterers'** **appropriateness** for **program** participation and the possible need for referral.

At minimum, **accredited programs** shall obtain the following information directly from **batterers**:

1. Accurate and detailed description of the most recent violent incident towards **victims**;
2. Any past use of **violence** towards **victims**, including any, sexual abuse towards the **victim** and others;
3. Nature of current relationship with **victim**;
4. Abuse and/or neglect towards children,
5. Substance abuse,
6. And other abusive behaviors (i.e. animal/pet abuse)

Assessments can be enhanced by including:

1. History of threats, assaults, ideation of homicide or suicide, and attempts of homicide or suicide;
2. Possession of, access to, or a history of using weapons;
3. Degree of persistent focus on partner's actions, whereabouts, friends;
4. History of head trauma injuries;
5. History of episodes of blackouts;
6. History of mental health conditions, and current mental health status;
7. History of abuse and/or trauma as a child.

Exits

GUIDELINE # 17 (Old 29)

Accredited programs shall develop a policy and create criteria for **batterers exiting the program** to ensure that decisions regarding **program completion** are **consistent** and **objective** for each **participant**. A written copy of the criteria for **batterers exiting the program** shall be provided to the **participant** when the **assessment** is conducted. This includes providing the criteria to the **participant** and the **referral source**.

Satisfactory Program Completion

Satisfactory **completion** includes but is not limited to:

1. **Completion** of **orientation** and **assessment**;
2. **Completion** of the required number of sessions as directed by the **program**. Service **providers** must comply with the requirements in Guideline #11;
3. Full payment of fees; and
4. **Compliance** with **program** rules.

Termination

Termination can include, but is not limited to:

1. Continued abuse, particularly physical **violence**;
2. Non-attendance;
3. **Non-compliance** with other intervention conditions (in accordance with Guideline #23) or provisions that are part of the **batterers'** written agreement;

4. **Non-compliance** with fee payment;
5. Violation of **program** and/or group rules; and
6. Frequent and/or continued use of manipulation or disruptive behavior during group sessions.

GUIDELINE # 18 (old 30)

Accredited programs shall notify and provide an explanation why an individual is deemed **inappropriate** to the **referral source** for **battering** intervention and prevention **program services**. **Accredited programs** can make recommendations to the **referral source** for additional services or treatment.

Batterers with severe mental health problems (chronic depression, personality disorders, or suicidal or homicidal ideation), disruptive behavior, substance abuse problems, and/or generalized **violence** may not be appropriate for the **program** and should be referred back to the **referral source**. **Programs** and **providers** should comply with the Americans with Disabilities Act.

GUIDELINE # 19

Accredited programs shall provide an **exit report** to the **referral source** within five (5) working days of a batterer exiting (completion or termination) the program.

Exit reports shall include the following elements:

1. Attendance
2. Level of participation
3. Participant's level of taking **accountability**

Exit reports may include fee balance. The **exit report** shall state that the participation in or **completion** of the **program** does not guarantee the absence of future **violence**.

GUIDELINE # 20

Accredited programs shall complete an individualized plan for **batterers** accepted into the **program** and the plan shall be completed within a month of **assessment**. Both the **batterer** and facilitator shall be involved in creating the individualized plan. If additional services are offered to the **batterer**, they should be noted on the individualized plan.

An individualized plan shall include, but is not limited to:

1. Recommendations to the **referral source** for additional interventions in response to assessment information or observed participation in groups.
2. Referrals made to local organizations.

An individualized plan addresses the particular needs of each **batterer** and may be revised throughout the **program** based on the changing needs of each **batterer**.

Methods of individualized plan revision may include:

- Discussion and revision of individualized plan or goals as part of a group activity

- Meeting individually with **participants**.
- Reviewing individualized plan on assessment, at the **batterers'** midpoint in participation and upon **exit**.

BEST PRACTICE: The individualized plans may include goals created for the **batterer** by both the **batterer** and facilitator, expectations that the **batterer** has regarding BIPP, concepts that the **batterer** has learned from the BIPP.

BEST PRACTICE: Referrals to parenting classes should be made to programs that demonstrate knowledge, understanding and sensitivity to **family violence** issues.

GUIDELINE # 21

Accredited programs shall not offer **batterers** additional fee-based services provided by either the **organization operating or overseeing the accredited program** or any of the **program's staff** members. Referrals for additional fee-based services or supplemental **programming** must be made by the **referral source**.

BEST PRACTICE: Once a **batterer** completes BIPP, **programs** should offer additional sessions without requiring additional **program** fees.

Written Participant Agreements

GUIDELINE # 22

Accredited programs shall establish a written agreement that clearly delineates **participants'** obligations to the **program** and consequences for non-**compliance**. The agreement shall be reviewed with and signed by the **batterer**. A copy of the signed agreement shall be provided to **batterers** at the time of **assessment** or **orientation**. This agreement shall include the following **participant** obligations:

1. Cooperation with group rules;
2. **Compliance** with the written attendance policy;
3. Cessation of violent, abusive, threatening, and controlling behaviors, including stalking and violation of a protective order;
4. Non-abusive, non-controlling, and non-intimidating behavior toward other group **participants** and group facilitators;
5. Agreement to be drug and alcohol free at the time intervention services are provided; and
6. **Compliance** with financial agreements made with the **program**.

GUIDELINE # 23

Accredited programs shall establish a written agreement that clearly delineates the obligations of the **program** to **participants**. A copy of the agreement shall be reviewed with **participants** at the time of **assessment** or **orientation**. The content of the written agreement shall include the **program's** obligation to provide:

1. Fair and humane treatment and services in a manner that **batterers** can understand;
2. A copy of all written agreements;
3. A copy of the limits of **confidentiality**;
4. A copy of the criteria for **exiting** the **program** (including **completion** and **termination**);
5. Notification to **batterers** of changes in group time and schedules;
6. **Compliance** with anti-discrimination laws and all applicable state and federal laws;
7. A report every month after **assessment** is completed to the Community Supervision and Corrections Department (CSCD) or other **referral source** regarding the **batterers' compliance** status. **Progress reports** shall include elements such as attendance, level of participation, level of **accountability**, and may include fee balance. **Progress reports** may be provided to **referral sources** electronically.
8. A report within five working days to the CSCD or other **referral source**, if any, of any known law violation, incidents of physical **violence**, and/or **termination** from the BIPP;
9. A report to **batterers** regarding their status and participation, if requested; and
10. A copy of the fee schedule.
11. A copy of the participant grievance procedure.

BEST PRACTICE: Accredited programs should make a reasonable attempt to provide services in the **participant's** primary language. If a **provider** is unable to provide service in the **participant's** primary language the **provider** should refer the **participant** back to the **referral source**.

Victim Contact and Notification

GUIDELINE # 24

Accredited programs shall keep **victim** safety in mind at all times and neither persuade nor coerce **victims** to waive **confidentiality**. **Victims** shall be informed of the limits to **confidentiality** (in accordance with Guideline #7).

Accredited programs shall develop and implement written procedures for **victim contact** when the **program** initiates **victim contact** and/or when the **victim** initiates the contact. The written procedures shall address the following:

1. Informing **victims** that information shared will not be disclosed to **batterers**. This includes **victims** verifying **batterers' compliance** or continued abuse.
2. Informing **victims** about trained professionals who may provide **safety planning**.
3. Informing **victims** about safety issues and potential consequences that may arise from **program** contact or continued communication with the **program**;

4. Informing **victims** about options available, such as protective orders, referrals to a **family violence** shelter center, **family violence** non-residential center, legal advocacy, and other services;
5. Informing **victims** about their choice to initiate or terminate contact with the accredited **program** at will; and
6. Informing **victims** that **batterers' completion** of the **program** is not a guarantee of the absence of future **violence**.

GUIDELINE # 25

Accredited programs shall provide written notification by mail to **victims** within five (5) working days of **batterers** completing **assessment** and **exiting** (completion or termination) from the **program**. Both the entrance and **exit report** shall include notification that participation in and **completion** of the **program** does not guarantee the absence of future **violence**. Exit reports shall only include factual information that can be verified, including the date a **batterer** **exited** the **program**.

BEST PRACTICE: Entrance and **exit** notification should include information, brochures, and flyers about the local **family violence centers**, and available community resources.

GUIDELINE # 26

Accredited programs shall refer victims seeking services to appropriate **family violence** resources which include the local **family violence program** which may be able to provide services at no additional cost. **Accredited programs** shall not recommend marriage and couples counseling to **victims** during the time **batterers** are receiving **battering** intervention services.

If a **victim** reports a new violent incident, the **accredited programs** shall advise the **victim** of resources available from the appropriate law enforcement agency and the local **family violence** center.

Reporting Requirements

GUIDELINE # 27

Accredited programs shall submit monthly activity reports (MAR) to TDCJ-CJAD by the 10th of each month with data from the prior month and shall submit actual **program** output (APO) reports to TDCJ-CJAD annually.

In addition, data will be maintained by **accredited programs** in the case management system for all **batterers/offenders** receiving services by **accredited programs** regardless of whether the **batterers/offenders** entered the **program** voluntarily or were referred. The minimum data requirements are listed below. This data and additional information as requested by TDCJ-CJAD shall be submitted to TDCJ-CJAD by **accredited programs** for the purposes of performing **program assessments** and other **research**. Although this data will only be requested occasionally, the data must be maintained at all times. Technical support in addition to detailed instructions and accessibility to forms will be available when data submissions are required.

Minimum Data Requirements:

- **Batterer's/Offender's** full name;
- Identification number for each **batterer/offender** (require only one, SID# preferred);
 - State identification number (SID) assigned by the Texas Department of Public Safety for all **batterers/offenders** who have ever been arrested; or
 - TxDPS issued State I.D. card number or driver's license number.
- **Batterer's/Offender's** date of birth and race/ethnicity;
- **Batterer's/Offender's** relationship to **victim**;
- Gender and age of **victim**;
- Whether **batterer/offender** was residing with **victim** at the time the **batterer/offender** took part in the BIPP;
- The number of children under the age of 18 that were residing with the **batterer/offender** and/or the **victim** at the time of the intake;
- Date of referral (first referral either by referral source or individual);
- Date **batterer/offender** began **program**;
- Date **batterer/offender** exited the **program** and reason for **exit**; and
- Number of hours the **batterer/offender** spent participating in intake, **orientation**, group and/or individual intervention sessions.

Monthly activity reports (MAR) and actual **program** output (APO) reports submitted to TDCJ-CJAD shall be kept on file by **programs** or **providers** for a period of seven (7) years after they are submitted.

Community Education and Referral System

Community Education

GUIDELINE # 28

Accredited programs shall offer training to law enforcement, prosecutors, judges, probation officers, and others on the dynamics of **family violence**, **program** options, and **program** activities. **Accredited programs** shall document trainings provided and efforts to provide training on an annual basis.

BEST PRACTICE: **Accredited programs** sharing jurisdictions should collaborate in providing training. **Accredited programs** may also collaborate with local **family violence program** to provide community training sessions.

BEST PRACTICE: It is recommended that required training for members of the justice system include information about **family violence**, **battering**, its effects on **victims**, and appropriate intervention strategies to eliminate **violence** against women and children.

BEST PRACTICE: It is recommended that the justice system personnel be provided with:

1. Information regarding **program** length, fees, client eligibility, **program** employees' role in the hearings, how the justice agencies can access services, and BIPP **program** completion including termination criteria; and
2. Written information and reporting procedures regarding BIPP processes, including:
 - a. The BIPP **program**'s right to accept, reject, or terminate **batterers mandated** or referred to the **program**;
 - b. The reporting of violations of protective orders, bail bond conditions, and community **supervision** and parole conditions to the supervising agency or court;
 - c. Procedures for reporting any known violations of any provision of a court order mandating **battering** intervention services to the appropriate agency or court;
 - d. Procedures for reporting of further incidents of **violence**, including dates, brief descriptions, and outcomes; and
 - e. Procedure for submitting **participant** reports to the court.

Referral System

GUIDELINE # 29

Accredited programs shall develop and keep a documented system for receiving referrals from the courts and for reporting to the court regarding **batterers' compliance** with the **program**.

Section IV: Best Practices

Program Assessment and Evaluation

Accredited Program should conduct and document annual external *program assessments* regarding their services from all *referral sources*.

Accredited Programs should develop a policy regarding their participation in conducting internal *program evaluation*.

Feedback obtained through an evaluation process, while potentially informative, should be interpreted and made public with appropriate caution about the validity of the data.

Research

Accredited Programs participating in formal *research* should develop a written *research* policy that includes, but is not limited to:

1. Conforming with human subjects criteria for informed consent and protection, including *victim* consent and protection;
2. Allowing the *program or provider* to review and comment on findings;
3. Adherence to laws and standards regarding **confidentiality**;
4. Consistency with the *BIPP* mission statement and *BIPP Accreditation* Guidelines;
5. Acknowledgement of the *program's or provider's* support and participation;
6. When and if compensation will be accepted for the use of the *program's or provider's* resources and time; and
7. A written agreement that the *research* does not manipulate, disrupt, or impose on an accredited *program's* procedures.

Programs or providers who participate in *research* projects designed to explore the etiology of *family violence*, evaluate responses to the problems, and expand on the body of literature serving as a resource in the field.

Coordination of Activities

A. Coordination of Activities with Family Violence Shelter Centers

Accredited Programs should establish and document coordination of activities with local **family violence shelter centers** and *family violence non-residential centers*, including information for *victims* about **battering** intervention services, philosophy, content, and limitations.

Coordination of activities should include:

1. Methods of assuring *victims* are offered outreach, advocacy, *safety planning*, and other assistance while **family violence offenders/batterers** are receiving **battering** intervention services;
2. Efficient referral mechanisms between *family violence shelter centers* and **battering** intervention *programs and providers*; and

3. Coordination of **community education** and advocacy activities.

Some examples of how to coordinate activities with **family violence shelter centers** include asking **victims**, their advocates, and shelter **staff** to:

1. Consult on the development of advertising and public information campaigns relating to **battering** intervention services;
2. Participate in screening and hiring of **program staff**;
3. Review tapes of groups or observe groups directly; and
4. Give feedback on specific components of curriculum and implementation.

B. Collaboration with the Justice System

Accredited Programs should establish a collaborative working relationship with the courts, criminal and civil justice agencies, the local district and/or county attorney's office, local law enforcement, and corrections agencies to work together on ending **family violence**.

C. Collaboration with the Substance Abuse Treatment Community

Accredited Programs should establish a **collaborative working relationship** with the substance abuse treatment community. **Collaboration** with the substance abuse treatment community includes recognizing and using their knowledge and expertise in the field of substance abuse, as well as coordinating services for **family violence offenders/batterers**.

This **collaboration** should include:

1. Offering training on the dynamics of **family violence** and receiving training on substance abuse;
2. Providing information for **victims** and **family violence offenders/batterers** on the correlation between substance abuse and **family violence**; and
3. Educating the substance abuse treatment community that treatment for substance abuse can not be substituted for participation in **battering** intervention services.

D. Collaboration with the Community at Large

Accredited programs should collaborate with other community groups.

This **collaboration** of activities with the community at large should include:

1. Training community groups (e.g. medical institutions, schools, mental health agencies, religious institutions, child protective services, service clubs, and neighborhood associations) in conjunction with **family violence shelter centers** about **family violence**, **family violence** laws, services for **victims** and **family violence offenders/batterers**, safety strategies for **victims** and children, and **accountability** for **family violence offenders/batterers**; and
2. Initiating or supporting public policy and community-wide initiatives related to safety for **victims** and children and intervention with **family violence offenders/batterers**.

Community Education/Advocacy

Accredited Programs should provide **community education** to heighten public awareness of **family violence**.

Community education should include information about:

1. The dynamics of **family violence**;
2. The criminality of acts of **violence** towards family members;
3. The moral indefensibility of all acts of **family violence**;
4. The consequences of **family violence**; and

BIPP Advocacy seeks to:

1. Enhance the safety of **family violence victims**;
2. Ensure the effectiveness of community responses;
3. Holds **family violence offenders/batterers accountable**; and
4. End **family violence**.

Accredited Programs or providers should develop a policy **consistent** with the **BIPP Accreditation** Guidelines to outline their **community education** and advocacy efforts to end **family violence** and abuse against women.

The policy should include the following **program** information or activities:

Program Information:

1. Primary prevention information, including the connection between **victim** abuse and child abuse;
2. Information about the process and effectiveness of **battering** intervention services;
3. Clear information that **battering** intervention services are directed at eliminating the **family violence offender's/batterer's violence** and abuse, not salvaging relationships and marriages. The information should not mislead or overstate the positive outcomes of **battering** intervention services; and
4. Individual change depends on the genuine commitment of the **family violence offender/batterer** to end their **violence** and correct their abusive controlling attitudes and behaviors.

Program Activities:

1. Participation in local coalitions that enhance interagency communication and systems coordination. These efforts should support the creation of policies, practices, and procedures that are both responsive to the needs of **victims** and children, and hold **family violence offenders/batterers accountable**; and
2. Plans for forming geographically, culturally, and racially diverse coalitions. Community representatives, including former **victims**, the local **family violence shelter center**, relevant legal systems, **victim** advocacy groups, and related service **providers** should be involved.

Accredited Programs should develop an annual work plan that specifies their education and advocacy goals for every fiscal year and a strategy for meeting those goals

Section V: Appendices

Appendix A: Supplemental Information and Forms

- i. Background Check Instructions**
- ii. Training Hour Options**
- iii. Approved BIPP Training Topics**
- iv. Approved Training Providers**
- v. Initial Training Documentation Form**
- vi. Staff Development Documentation Form**
- vii. Media Consent Form**

i. Background Check Instructions

TCIC

There are two ways in which you can complete your TCIC fingerprint criminal background check:

You can go to one of your local Texas Department of Public Safety office or call L1 Solutions at 1-888-467-2080 for an L1 Solutions location near your area to get a T.X.I. Review (state only criminal background check) completed.

If you call the L1 Solutions number they will ask you for your zip code and they will give you the number to the L1 Solutions location nearest to you. When you call the L1 Solutions location you will have to make an appointment to get your T.X.I. Review done. The L1 Solutions location will give you more clarification on how to complete the process once you call them to set up an appointment.

This should cost about \$24.95. The results will be mailed to the agency or the individual.

NCIC

You will need to get a fingerprint card completed at one of your local Texas Department of Public Safety offices or call L1 Solutions at 1-888-467-2080 for an L1 Solutions location near your area. Tell them you want to have a "Printngo" (fingerprint card) done. This should cost about \$9.95. Once you have your fingerprint card completed you will need to go the NCIC website and fill out the application and mail it in along with your completed fingerprint card and your money order (\$18.00).

If you call the L1 Solutions number they will ask you for your zip code and they will give you the number to the L1 Solutions location nearest to you. When you call the L1 Solutions location you will have to make an appointment to get your "Printngo" done. The L1 Solutions location will give you more clarification on how to complete the process once you call them to set up an appointment.

You will then complete the application found at the website www.fbi.gov and submit the completed application along with your fingerprint card and money order (\$18.00) and mail it to the address indicated on Step 5. They will then mail you the results.

Here are the links to getting your NCIC fingerprint background check completed. The second link "Submitting and ID Record Request to the FBI" gives you step by step instructions on how to complete your NCIC fingerprint background check.

Customer Service
1-877-324-NICS (6427)

<http://www.fbi.gov/about-us/cjis/background-checks/submitting-an-identification-record-request-to-the-fbi> - Submitting and ID Record Request to the FBI

<https://forms.fbi.gov/departmental-order-website-questionnaire/q384893984839334.pdf> - Application

<http://www.fbi.gov/about-us/cjis/background-checks/fbi-identification-record-request-checklist> - FBI Identification Record Checklist

<http://www.fbi.gov/about-us/cjis/background-checks/faqs> - FAQ's

ii. Training Hour Options:

1. A graduate-level course in **family violence** completed within the last five years from the date of hire with current employer at an accredited university may count toward three of the required hours. A course description must be submitted and contain topics approved by TDCJ-CJAD.
2. Training for direct service or volunteer **staff** provided by a **family violence shelter center** or **family violence non-residential center** that is funded by the Texas Department Health and Human Services Commission congruent with the BIPP training topics can count toward 15 of the required hours.
3. TDCJ-CJAD approved online courses that are congruent with the **BIPP** training topics may count for 20 hours. Documentation of training hours must be submitted to TDCJ-CJAD for approval.
4. Group observation(s) with an experienced facilitator working at a fully accredited **program** may count 12 hours towards the requested number of hours. **Program staff** should debrief after each session.
5. Attendance at any TCFV BIPP Professional development opportunity (BIPP Educational Series, BIPP Statewide Conference).
6. Attendance at trainings approved by TDCJ-CJAD congruent with **BIPP** training topics. A list of CJAD approved training opportunities is available in the appendix.

iii. Approved BIPP Training Topics:

Family violence training that includes but is not limited to the following:

1. Dynamics of **family violence** including the history of the **movement**
2. **Battering** is intentional behavior aimed at achieving and maintaining dominance within a relationship;
3. Characteristics of **batterers** and their behavior;
4. **Victim** safety, **safety planning**, and risk **assessment** for **victims**;
5. Effects of **violence** on the **victim**, children, and the community at large;
6. Texas **family violence** laws and state reporting laws; and
7. Protective orders and other legal information.

Battering intervention and prevention training that includes, but is not limited to, the following:

1. Review of TDCJ-CJAD **BIPP Accreditation** Guidelines;
2. Cultural competency;
3. **Batterer Accountability**
4. **Collusion**;
5. **Victim contact**;
6. **Assessment** and **individual plans**, including risk **assessment** and **non-violence planning**;
7. **Inappropriate** interventions for **batterers** and other facilitator concerns;
8. Group facilitation of **batterers**;
9. Assessing and reporting progress and **compliance** of the **batterer** to the **referral source**;

10. Ethics for **BIPP** facilitators; and
11. **Family violence** prevention as a social justice issue.

Staff development topics should include:

1. Ethics preferably related to **family violence** (maximum of six hours);
2. **Violence** as a form of oppression, including racism, sexism, and homophobia;
3. Basic defense mechanisms of **batterers** that promote deception, distortion, and misrepresentation of the facts of the abuse and the experience of the **victim**;
4. Relevant legal issues;
5. Substance abuse, psychopathology, and family of origin issues and their relationship to **family violence**;
6. **Victim** safety;
7. **BIPP** skill enhancement;
8. **Collusion**;
9. **Male privilege** and the gendered nature of **family violence**;
10. Methods of **collaboration** with **family violence shelter centers, family violence non-residential centers**, and
11. **family violence** advocates and the **program's Accountability** to them;
12. New trends in **battering** intervention **programming**; and
13. Current **family violence research** available from subscriptions and circulation of newsletters and bulletins, and information from technical assistance conferences

iv. Approved Training Providers

Conferences, training sessions, webinars, online modules and other **staff development** opportunities are approved for the **providers** below without preapproval from TDCJ-CJAD unless otherwise indicated by the conference host.

Conference Host	Types of Trainings Offered	Website
Texas Council on Family violence Austin	Training events noted as CJAD Approved	www.tcfv.org
Emerge, Boston, MA	Curriculum Training	http://www.emergedv.com
Domestic Abuse Intervention Programs (DAIP) Duluth, MN	Curriculum Training, Other	http://www.theduluthmodel.org
Men Stopping Violence Atlanta, GA	Curriculum Training, Other	http://www.menstoppingviolence.org
Genesis Dallas	Crimes Against Women Conference	http://www.genesisshelter.org
The Family Place, Dallas	Annual BIPP Training	http://www.familyplace.org
National Network to End Domestic Violence (NNEDV) Washington, D.C.	Annual Conference, Other	http://www.nnedv.org
Alternatives to Domestic Aggression, Michigan	Annual Conference	http://www.csswashtenaw.org/ada
Man Alive - Life Anew, California	Annual Conference	http://www.elifeanew.com/manalive.html
National Association of Social Workers (NASW), Austin	Annual Conference	http://www.naswtx.org
National Coalition Against Domestic Violence (NCADV), Denver, Colorado	Bi-Annual Conference	http://www.ncadv.org
The National Center for Victims of Crime, Washington, D.C.	National Annual Conference	www.ncvc.org
Men Can Stop Rape, Washington, D.C.	Customized Trainings	www.mencanstoprape.org
Alternative Programs		
Domestic Violence Turning Points, Grand Rapids, MN	Women Who Use Force Curriculum Training	http://dvturningpoints.com

v.

Required Initial Training Worksheet

Please fill out the following form to outline initial training hours for new employees. Onsite auditors will confirm documentation.

Employee Name:

Date of Hire:

Today's Date:

Licensing Agency (if any):

Type of License:

Expiration Date:

- I have been licensed four or more years.
- I have worked with court-referred batterers for four or more years.
- I am in good standing with my licensing board.
- I have attached documents supporting above statement.

Competency	Date Due	Date Completed	Documentation/Verification/ # of Hours/etc.	Auditor Confirmation
A graduate-level course in family violence completed within the last five years from the date of hire with current employer at an accredited university may count toward three of the required hours. A course description must be submitted and contain topics approved by TDCJ-CJAD. (max 3 hrs)				

Initial Training Worksheet (Page 2)

Employee Name:

Competency	Date Due	Date Completed	Documentation/Verification/ # of Hours/etc.	Auditor Confirmation
TDCJ-CJAD approved online courses that are congruent with the BIPP training topics may count for 20 hours. Documentation of training hours must be submitted to TDCJ-CJAD for approval	Within 6 mos. of hire			
Training for direct service or volunteer staff provided by a family violence shelter center or family violence non-residential center that is funded by the Texas Department Health and Human Services Commission congruent with the BIPP training topics can count toward 15 of the required hours.	Within 6 mos. of hire			
Attendance at trainings approved by TDCJ-CJAD congruent with BIPP training topics. A list of CJAD approved training opportunities is available in the appendix. Battering Intervention Training	Within 6 mos. of hire			
Group observation(s) with an experienced facilitator working at a fully accredited program may count 12 hours towards the requested number of hours. Program staff should debrief after each session.	Within 6 mos. of hire			
Attendance at any TCFV BIPP Professional development opportunity (BIPP Educational Series, BIPP Statewide Conference).	Within 6 mos. of hire			
	Within 6 mos. of hire			
	Within 6 mos. of hire			

Total Number of Hours:

Comments/Additional Information:

vi.

Required Staff Development Worksheet

Staff Member: _____

Hire Date: _____

Program Name: _____

Date of Accreditation: _____

Licensed Professional

Other Professional

	Licensed Professionals	Other Professionals
Staff Development	24 hours every 2 years 12 must be approved by TDCJ-CJAD	40 hours every 2 years 20 must be approved by TDCJ-CJAD

Please list staff development opportunity, the date conducted/attended, the amount of hours and please what documentation confirms hours.

Conference/City	Date(s)	Hours/CJAD Approved	Documentation
<i>BIPP Statewide, Austin Sample</i>	<i>4-15/16 Sample</i>	<i>7.75—CJAD Approved</i>	<i>Certificate Sample</i>
Total Hours			

vii.

Sample Media Consent Form Offender Consent Form

I, **Name of Perpetrator** agree to be present/be interviewed by **(Media Station/Event Name)**. I have voluntarily agreed to respond to participate in this interview/event without coercion from BIP Program Name.

For participation at this event I agree to:

1. Not disclose the name or ANY identifying information that will compromise the victims' confidentiality.
2. Take accountability for my actions.
3. Not blame the victim, alcohol/drugs or other circumstances for my abusive behaviors.

In addition I agree to

- For my full name to be used at the event or in the publication. Intial: _____
- My image can be used at the event or in the publication. Intial: _____
- I want to remain anonymous in the interview. Intial: _____

BIP Program Name informed me:

- About the program's community education policy as it relates to offenders speaking publicly
- About the purpose of the interview or speaking engagement.
- That I will be accompanied by a staff member at event or interview to ensure that will take responsibility for my actions and also will not compromise the victims' confidentiality.
- About the possible consequences of making public statements about my perpetration.

As the subject of an interview, I am not required to do anything I do not want to do. I have the right to be comfortable and to be treated fairly.

This consent form will expire Insert Date or Other Details

Interviewee's Signature: _____

Date: _____

Staff Member's Signature: _____

Date: _____

Witnesses' Signature: _____

Date: _____

Sample Media Consent Form

Victim Consent Form

I, **Name of Victim** agree that **Insert Name of Perpetrator** may speak about the abusive behavior used against me. I have voluntarily agreed to the following without coercion from **BIP Program Name and of Perpetrator of the violence**:

- General, **non-identifying information** (including the use of my name) to be shared at the event or publication. Initial: _____
- Other, explain: _____ Initial: _____

BIP Program Name discussed the purpose of the interview or speaking engagement with me and informed me:

- About their policy in regards to offenders participating in interviews or events.
- That a member of their staff will be present to ensure my confidentiality is not compromised and that the perpetrator will take accountability for his abusive behaviors.
- About the possible consequences of making public statements about my victimization.
- About a local family violence program which can assist me in developing a safety plan or accessing community resources.

As the subject of an interview, I am not required to do anything I do not want to do. I have the right to be comfortable and to be treated fairly.

This waiver will expire Insert Date or Other Details

Victim's Signature: _____

Date: _____

Staff Member's Signature: _____

Date: _____

Witnesses' Signature: _____

Date: _____

Appendix B: Glossary

Accountable/Accountability: To accept responsibility for one's actions and/or behaviors.

Accreditation: TDCJ-CJAD requirements that service **providers** must meet in order to be accredited in accordance with the Texas Code of Criminal Procedure, Article 42.141. **Programs** may receive accredited status or probationary/provisional **accreditation**.

Accredited programs: Conforming to BIPP **Accreditation** Guidelines and receiving either Probationary **Accreditation** or **Accreditation** status from TDCJ-CJAD.

Actual Program Outputs Report (APO): A report submitted annually to the **Research** and Evaluation Section of TDCJ-CJAD, which collects statistics on **program participants**, such as intakes, **exits**, reasons for **exit**, and services provided, by **referral source**, for the preceding fiscal year.

Appropriateness: **Batterers'** suitability to receive **direct services** for **battering** intervention.

Assessment: A process conducted by an accredited **program** to gather information directly from **batterers** to determine the **Appropriateness** for BIPP services prior to **batterers'** acceptance to the **program**.

Batterer: Individuals, predominately men, who commit repeated acts of abuse, **violence**, or controlling behavior, or who repeatedly threaten **violence** against another who is:

- Related to the **batterer** by affinity or consanguinity, as determined under Chapter 573, Government Code;
- Is a former spouse of the **batterer**;
- Resides or has resided in the same household with the **batterer**; or
- Is or was in a relationship with the **batterer**.

Battering: Repeated acts of **violence** or threats of **violence** against an intimate partner that includes using coercion, physical, emotional and sexual abuse, and stalking.

Best Practice: A technique or methodology that through experience and **research** has reliably led to a desired or optimum result. **Best Practices** are recommended but not required for **accreditation**.

BIPP Advocacy: Advocating with systems (e.g., criminal justice, public school) for changes in their policies and procedures that will enhance the safety of battered women and provide for the maximum **Accountability** of **batterers**.

Check-in: Verbal reports of any instances of abusive behaviors or potential abusive behaviors made during group by **participants**.

Collaboration: Working closely with one or more agencies to ensure that policies and procedures of all parties are congruent and maximize **victim** safety and **batterer Accountability**.

Collaborative Working Relationship: A working relationship formed between one or more agencies to work toward a common goal.

Collusion/Colluding: Reinforcing abusive behaviors and views of **batterers** by condoning their actions or comments by providing positive feedback, failing to address **inappropriate** sentiments and providing the **batterer** with either verbal or non-verbal support for abusive behaviors.

Community education: Information presented to heighten public awareness of **family violence**.

Community Supervision and Corrections Department (CSCD): Adult probation department.

Completion: See “**Program Completion.**”

Completion report: A report to the **referral source**, the **victim**, and **batterer** stating that the **batterer** has completed the requirements of the BIPP.

Compliance: Conformity with the **program’s** or **provider’s** requirements for **program** participation and **completion**.

Confidentiality: The concealment of any information regarding the **batterer**, **victim**, and/or associates, including family members, obtained during intake and group participation.

Confront: To challenge **inappropriate** statements or actions by **batterers**.

Consistent (relates to **completion** and **termination** decisions regarding **batterers** in a **program**): Adhering to the same principles, course, or form.

Court mandated referrals: Referrals made to accredited **providers** by the courts, including referrals made from the district or county attorney’s office.

Degree in a related discipline: A degree conferred by an institution of higher education recognized by an accrediting organization, such as the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board in human services, psychology, social work, sociology, counseling, criminal justice, or a related field.

Direct services: Services provided face-to-face to **family violence offenders** by an accredited **program** or **provider**. This does not include administrative services.

Exit: When a **participant** leaves the BIPP for any reason. This may include **completion** of **program**, failure to complete **program** requirements, or expulsion from the **program**.

Exit report: A report to the **referral source**, the **victim**, and **batterer** stating that they have **exited** from the BIPP.

Family violence: Acts of **violence** and/or threats of **violence** against a spouse or significant other that includes using coercion, emotional abuse, physical and sexual abuse, and stalking.

Family violence program/center: A **program/center** that is operated by a public or private nonprofit organization and provides comprehensive residential and/or non-residential services to **victims** of **family violence**.

Female mandated group: A BIPP group established for women who have been identified by the criminal justice system as **family violence offenders**.

Group format: The method in which a group is facilitated which encourages interaction and discussion between **participants**.

Inappropriate: Batterer is not ready to enter a **program** due to chronic mental health issues, substance abuse, or other factors deeming the **batterer** unsuitable at the time of **assessment**.

Individual plan: A living document assessing a **participant's** needs, and outlining goals and plan of action for group participation.

Initial training: Supervised instruction and training activities for **staff** (in accordance with Guideline #2) that takes place immediately after hire and before working **unsupervised** with **batterers**.

Intimate partner violence: Acts of **violence** and/or threats of **violence** against a spouse, significant other, or persons involved in a dating or intimate relationship that includes using coercion, emotional abuse, physical and sexual abuse, and stalking.

Male privilege: Advantages that society accords to men, whether intentionally or not.

Mandated: A requirement issued by a court or official for a **batterer** to attend an accredited **program**.

Monitor (Supervise): To **supervise** BIPP **staff** for adherence with the BIPP **Accreditation** Guidelines.

Monthly Activity Report (MAR): A report collecting data on a **program's** or **provider's** activities throughout a month and submitted by the 10th of the following month to TDCJ-CJAD.

Movement (Battered Women's): The roots of the battered women's **movement** stem from the Anti-Rape **Movement** of the 1960's. The **movement** was influenced by the Civil Rights **Movement**, the Anti-War **Movement**, and the Women's **Movement**.

Non-Compliance: A **batterer** not meeting expectations set within **participant** agreements.

Non-violence plan: Batterers' plans of action, which are designed to ensure their **non-violence** and the safety of their **victims** and families.

Non-violence: Absence of physical, psychological, economic, sexual, and verbal abuse, as well as threats and stalking.

Objective: (relates to **completion** and **termination** decisions regarding **batterers** in a **program**): Something toward which effort is directed; an aim, goal, or end of action.

Offender: See “**Batterer.**”

Orientation: Any activities conducted with **participants** to prepare them for group sessions.

Participant: A **batterer** who has been accepted for participation in a BIPP and has signed **program** documents agreeing to participate in group activities and follow BIPP requirements.

Program: An accredited **program** meeting the requirements established by TDCJ-CJAD in consultation with the Texas Council on **Family violence.**

Program Assessment: A systemic collection review and use of information about the program, undertaken for the purpose of identifying areas of improvement for the program.

Program Completion: When a **participant** meets the minimum criteria for **completion** of the BIPP as required by these Guidelines as well as any additional criteria required by the **program** itself.

Program evaluation: Assessment of **program** efficacy, **participant** referrals, dropout, and **completion** rates. The **program evaluation** may include feedback from former **program participants** taking into consideration the safety of **victims.**

Program services: Any service that the **program** may provide including but not limited to **assessment/intake, orientation, group, and individual counseling.**

Progress Reports: Documentation describing the level of participation by a **batterer** in a BIPP provided by the **program** to the **referral source.**

Provider: An accredited BIPP.

Referral source: The agency referring a **family violence offender** to an accredited **program** or **provider.**

Research (specific to the field of **family violence**): **Objective** process of inquiry that advances the knowledge of **intimate partner violence.**

Safety planning: A plan developed by a trained professional with a **victim** to use in the case of danger or threat from a **batterer.**

Separate files: Maintenance of **batterer** case files separate from the case files of **victims.**

Staff: A person who works directly with **batterers** (full-time, part-time, contract, intern, or volunteer; paid or unpaid) and/or **supervises staff** that work directly with **batterers.**

Staff development: Training, in addition to initial training, addressing issues arising as a result of working in the **family violence** field which provides for continued learning opportunities for new skills, approaches and technical or **research.**

Supervise/Supervised/Supervision: An interactional process where the supervisor can instruct and guide BIPP staff through issues raised during work with participants with the goal of ensuring that staff comply with BIPP Accreditation Guidelines.

Termination: When a batterer leaves the BIPP program by any means other than completion of the program.

Unsupervised: A BIPP staff activities that are not monitored by experienced BIPP facilitators, coordinators, or directors.

Victim blaming: A family violence offender holding a victim in whole or in part responsible for the offender's acts of violence.

Victim: A person who has been harmed by violence from a batterer with whom they cohabit or have cohabited within the past. Can also be a person harmed in a dating or intimate relationship or past dating or intimate relationship.

Victim contact: Periodic contact between the victim and the BIPP program during the time a batterer is involved with the BIPP.

Victim notification: Written notification to the victim when the batterer enters and exits the BIPP.

Violence-Free: No arrests or protective order violations.

Appendix C: Texas Code of Criminal Procedure, Article 42.141

Art. 42.141. BATTERING INTERVENTION AND PREVENTION PROGRAM.

Sec. 1. Definitions

In this article:

"Batterer" means a person who commits repeated acts of violence or who repeatedly threatens violence against another who is:

(A) related to the actor by affinity or consanguinity, as determined under Chapter 573, Government Code;

(B) is a former spouse of the actor; or

(C) resides or has resided in the same household with the actor.

(2) "Division" means the community justice assistance division of the Texas Department of Criminal Justice.

(3) "Family" has the meaning assigned by Section 71.003, Family Code.

(4) "Family violence" has the meaning assigned by Section 71.004, Family Code.

(5) "Shelter center" has the meaning assigned by Section 51.002, Human Resources Code.

(6) "Household" has the meaning assigned by Section 71.005, Family Code.

(7) "Program" means a battering intervention and prevention program that:

(A) meets:

(i) the guidelines adopted by the community justice assistance division of the Texas Department of Criminal Justice with the assistance of the statewide nonprofit organization described by Section 3(1); and

(ii) any other eligibility requirements adopted by the Texas Department of Criminal Justice; and

(B) provides, on a local basis to batterers referred by the courts for intervention, educational services and intervention designed to help the batterers stop their abusive behavior.

(8) "Project" means the statewide activities for the funding of battering intervention and prevention programs, the related community educational campaign, and education and research regarding such programs.

(9) "Responsive law enforcement climate" means an area where, in cases of family violence:

(A) the local law enforcement agency has a policy or record of arresting batterers; and

(B) the local criminal justice system:

(i) cooperates with the victim in filing protective orders; and

(ii) takes appropriate action against a person who violates protective orders.

Sec. 2. Establishment

The battering intervention and prevention program is established in the division.

Sec. 3. Duties of the division.

The division shall:

(1) contract with a nonprofit organization that for the five-year period before the date on which a contract is to be signed has been involved in providing to shelter centers, law enforcement agencies, and the legal community statewide advocacy and technical assistance relating to family violence, with the contract requiring the nonprofit organization to perform the duties described in Section (4) of this article;

(2) seek the input of the statewide nonprofit organization described in Subdivision (1) in the development of standards for selection of programs for inclusion in the project and the review of proposals submitted by programs;

(3) issue requests for proposals for the programs and an educational campaign not later than January 1, 1990;

(4) award contracts for programs that are operated by nonprofit organizations and that take into consideration:

(A) a balanced geographical distribution of urban, rural, and suburban models; and

(B) the presence of a responsive law enforcement climate in the community;

(5) develop and monitor the project in cooperation with the nonprofit organization described by Subdivision (1);

(6) monitor the development of a community educational campaign in cooperation with the nonprofit organization described by Subdivision (1);

(7) assist the nonprofit organization described by Subdivision (1) in designing program evaluations and research activities;

(8) facilitate training of probation officers and other criminal justice professionals by the nonprofit organization described by Subdivision (1) and by programs;

(9) seek the assistance of the nonprofit organization described by Subdivision (1) in developing program guidelines and in accrediting programs and providers providing battering intervention and prevention services as conforming to those guidelines; and

(10) before adopting program guidelines under Section 4A:

(A) notify the licensing authorities described by Chapters 152, 501, 502, 503, and 505, Occupations Code, that the division is considering adopting program guidelines; and

(B) invite the licensing authorities to comment on the program guidelines.

Sec. 4. Duties of the Nonprofit Organization.

The nonprofit organization with which the division contracts under Section 3(1) shall:

(1) assist the division in developing and issuing requests for proposals for the programs and the educational campaign;

(2) assist the division in reviewing the submitted proposals and making recommendations for proposals to be selected for funding;

(3) develop and monitor the project in cooperation with the division;

(4) provide technical assistance to programs to:

(A) develop appropriate services for batterers;

(B) train staff;

(C) improve coordination with shelter centers, the criminal justice system, the judiciary, law enforcement agencies, prosecutors, and other appropriate officials and support services;

(D) implement the community educational campaign; and

(E) participate in project administered program evaluation and research activities;

(5) provide technical assistance to the division to:

(A) develop and implement standards for selection of programs for inclusion in the project; and

(B) develop standards for selection of the community educational campaign described in Section 6 of this article;

(6) submit an annual written report to the division and to the legislature with recommendations for continuation, elimination, or changes in the project;

(7) evaluate the programs and the community educational campaign, including an analysis of the effectiveness of the project and the level of public awareness relating to family violence; and

(8) assist the division in developing program guidelines and in accrediting programs and providers providing battering intervention and prevention services as conforming to those guidelines.

Sec. 4A. Adoption of Program Guidelines; Accreditation Process.

With the assistance of the statewide nonprofit organization described by Section 3(1) and after notifying the licensing authorities described by Section 3(10), the division shall adopt guidelines for programs and shall accredit programs and providers providing battering intervention and prevention services as conforming to those guidelines. The division shall collect from each program or provider that applies for accreditation under this section a one-time application fee in an amount set by the Texas Department of Criminal Justice.

Sec. 5. Programs.

(a) A program proposal must:

(1) describe the counseling or treatment the program will offer;

(2) include letters from a local law enforcement agency or agencies, courts, probation officers, and other community resources describing the community's commitment to improve the criminal justice system's response to victims and batterers and to cooperate with and interact in the programs' activities;

(3) include a letter from the local shelter center describing the support services available to victims of family violence in the community and the shelter's commitment to cooperate and work with the program; and

(4) describe the public education and local community outreach activities relating to family violence currently available in the community and a statement of commitment to participate on the local level in the public educational campaign described in Section 6 of this article.

(b) A program must:

(1) be situated in a county in which a shelter center is located;

(2) offer counseling or treatment in which the primary approach is direct intervention with the batterer, on an individual or group basis, but that does not require the victim of the family violence to participate in the counseling or treatment;

(3) offer training to law enforcement prosecutors, judges, probation officers, and others on the dynamics of family violence, treatment options, and program activities; and

(4) have a system for receiving referrals from the courts and for reporting to the court regarding batterers' compliance with the treatment program.

(c) This section does not preclude a program from serving a batterer other than one who was ordered by a court to participate in the program established under this subchapter.

Sec. 6. Community Educational Campaign

(a) The division, with assistance from the nonprofit organization, shall select the community educational campaign relating to family violence after the commission has selected the programs. The campaign is to be implemented in the areas covered by the programs.

(b) The campaign shall use a variety of media, including newspapers, radio, television, and billboards, and shall focus on:

- (1) the criminality of acts of violence toward family members;
- (2) the consequences of family violence crimes to the batterer; and
- (3) eradicating public misconceptions of family violence.

Use of Legislative Appropriation

Sec. 7. Use of Legislative Appropriation

Of a legislative appropriation for the project established under this article:

- (1) not more than six percent may be used by the division for management and administration of the project;
- (2) not more than 14 percent may be applied to the contract between the division and the nonprofit organization; and
- (3) not more than three percent may be applied to the contract for the community educational campaign.

Sec. 8. Contract Date

The contract required under Section 3(a) of this article shall be signed not later than November 1, 1989.

Added by Acts 1989, 71st Leg., ch. 785, Sec. 3.05, eff. Sept. 1, 1989. Sec. 1(1) amended by Acts 1991, 72nd Leg., ch. 561, Sec. 11, eff. Aug. 26, 1991; Sec. 1(1)(A) amended by Acts 1995, 74th Leg., ch. 76, Sec. 5.95(27), eff. Sept. 1, 1995; Sec. 1(3), (4), (6) amended by Acts 2003, 78th Leg., ch. 1276, Sec. 7.002(i), eff. Sept. 1, 2003.

Amended by: Acts 2007, 80th Leg., R.S., Ch. [113](#), Sec. 2, eff. September 1, 2007. Acts 2007, 80th Leg., R.S., Ch. [113](#), Sec. 3, eff. September 1, 2007.

APPENDIX D: Texas Code of Criminal Procedure, Art. 42.12 Community Supervision, Section 14

Sec. 14. Child Abusers and Family Violence Offenders; Special Conditions

(a) If the court grants probation to a person convicted of an offense described by Article 17.41(a) of this code, the court may require as a condition of probation that the defendant not directly communicate with the victim of the offense or go near a residence, school, or other location, as specifically described in the copy of terms and conditions, frequented by the victim. In imposing the condition, the court may grant the defendant supervised access to the victim. To the extent that a condition imposed under this subsection conflicts with an existing court order granting possession of or access to a child, the condition imposed under this subsection prevails for a period specified by the court granting probation, not to exceed 90 days.

(b) Repealed by Acts 2003, 78th Leg., ch. 353, Sec. 6.

(c-1) Beginning on September 1, 2009, a program or provider serving as a referral option for the courts under Subsection (c) (1) or (2) must be accredited under Section 4A, Article 42.141, as conforming to program guidelines under that article.

(c-2) If the court requires the defendant to attend counseling or a program, the court shall require the defendant to begin attendance not later than the 60th day after the date the court grants community supervision, notify the community supervision and corrections department officer of the name, address, and phone number of the counselor or program, and report the defendant's attendance to the officer. The court shall require the defendant to pay all the reasonable costs of the counseling sessions or attendance in the program on a finding that the defendant is financially able to make payment. If the court finds the defendant is unable to make payment, the court shall make the counseling sessions or enrollment in the program available without cost to the defendant. The court may also require the defendant to pay all or a part of the reasonable costs incurred by the victim for counseling made necessary by the offense, on a finding that the defendant is financially able to make payment. The court may order the defendant to make payments under this subsection for a period not to exceed one year after the date on which the order is entered.

Text of Sec. 14 as amended by Acts 1993, 73rd Leg., ch. 900, Sec. 4.01; Acts 1995, 74th Leg., ch. 76, Sec. 3.09; Acts 1995, 74th Leg., ch. 321, Sec. 3.004 and 3.005; Acts 1999, 76th Leg., ch. 1188, Sec. 1.44; Acts 2003, 78th Leg., ch. 209, Sec. 63; and Acts 2003, 78th Leg., ch. 1310, Sec. 2.

Appendix E: Texas Family Code, Subtitle E. Protection to Child, Chapter 261 Investigation of Child Abuse or Neglect, Sections 261.101 and 261.109

§ 261.101. PERSONS REQUIRED TO REPORT; TIME TO REPORT.

(a) A person having cause to believe that a child's physical or mental health or welfare has been adversely affected by abuse or neglect by any person shall immediately make a report as provided by this subchapter.

(b) If a professional has cause to believe that a child has been abused or neglected or may be abused or neglected, or that a child is a victim of an offense under Section 21.11, Penal Code, and the professional has cause to believe that the child has been abused as defined by Section 261.001 or 261.401, the professional shall make a report not later than the 48th hour after the hour the professional first suspects that the child has been or may be abused or neglected or is a victim of an offense under Section 21.11, Penal Code. A professional may not delegate to or rely on another person to make the report. In this subsection, "professional" means an individual who is licensed or certified by the state or who is an employee of a facility licensed, certified, or operated by the state and who, in the normal course of official duties or duties for which a license or certification is required, has direct contact with children. The term includes teachers, nurses, doctors, day-care employees, employees of a clinic or health care facility that provides reproductive services, juvenile probation officers, and juvenile detention or correctional officers.

(c) The requirement to report under this section applies without exception to an individual whose personal communications may otherwise be privileged, including an attorney, a member of the clergy, a medical practitioner, a social worker, a mental health professional, and an employee of a clinic or health care facility that provides reproductive services.

(d) Unless waived in writing by the person making the report, the identity of an individual making a report under this chapter is confidential and may be disclosed only:

(1) as provided by Section 261.201; or

(2) to a law enforcement officer for the purposes of conducting a criminal investigation of the report.

Added by Acts 1995, 74th Leg., ch. 20, § 1, eff. April 20, 1995. Amended by Acts 1995, 74th Leg., ch. 751, § 87, eff. Sept. 1, 1995; Acts 1997, 75th Leg., ch. 162, § 1, eff. Sept. 1, 1997; Acts 1997, 75th Leg., ch. 575, § 11, eff. Sept. 1, 1997; Acts 1997, 75th Leg., ch. 1022, § 65, eff. Sept. 1, 1997; Acts 1999, 76th Leg., ch. 62, § 6.29, eff. Sept. 1, 1999; Acts 1999, 76th Leg., ch. 1150, § 2, eff. Sept. 1, 1999; Acts 1999, 76th Leg., ch. 1390, § 21, eff. Sept. 1, 1999; Acts 2001, 77th Leg., ch. 1420, § 5.003, eff. Sept. 1, 2001.

Amended by: Acts 2005, 79th Leg., Ch. [949](#), § 27, eff. September 1, 2005.

§ 261.109. FAILURE TO REPORT; PENALTY.

(a) A person commits an offense if the person has cause to believe that a child's physical or mental health or welfare has been or may be adversely affected by abuse or neglect and knowingly fails to report as provided in this chapter.

(b) An offense under this section is a Class B misdemeanor.

Added by Acts 1995, 74th Leg., ch. 20, § 1, eff. April 20, 1995.

Appendix F: Texas Human Resources Code, Title 2. Human Services and Department of Protective and Regulatory Services, Chapter 48, Sections 48.051 and 48.052

Sec. 48.051. REPORT.

(a) Except as prescribed by Subsection (b), a person having cause to believe that an elderly or disabled person is in the state of abuse, neglect, or exploitation shall report the information required by Subsection (d) immediately to the department.

(b) If a person has cause to believe that an elderly or disabled person has been abused, neglected, or exploited in a facility operated, licensed, certified, or registered by a state agency other than the Texas Department of Mental Health and Mental Retardation, the person shall report the information to the state agency that operates, licenses, certifies, or registers the facility for investigation by that agency.

(c) The duty imposed by Subsections (a) and (b) applies without exception to a person whose knowledge concerning possible abuse, neglect, or exploitation is obtained during the scope of the person's employment or whose professional communications are generally confidential, including an attorney, clergy member, medical practitioner, social worker, and mental health professional.

(d) The report may be made orally or in writing. It shall include:

- (1) the name, age, and address of the elderly or disabled person;
- (2) the name and address of any person responsible for the elderly or disabled person's care;
- (3) the nature and extent of the elderly or disabled person's condition;
- (4) the basis of the reporter's knowledge; and
- (5) any other relevant information.

(e) If a person who makes a report under this section chooses to give self-identifying information, the caseworker who investigates the report shall contact the person if necessary to obtain any additional information required to assist the person who is the subject of the report.

Added by Acts 1981, 67th Leg., p. 2368, ch. 584, Sec. 1, eff. Sept. 1, 1981. Amended by Acts 1983, 68th Leg., p. 730, ch. 172, Sec. 1, eff. Sept. 1, 1983; Acts 1987, 70th Leg., ch. 1052, Sec. 5.02, eff. Sept. 1, 1987; Acts 1989, 71st Leg., ch. 247, Sec. 16, eff. June 14, 1989. Added by Acts 1981, 67th Leg., p. 2368, ch. 584, Sec. 1, eff. Sept. 1, 1981. Amended by Acts 1983, 68th Leg., p. 730, ch. 172, Sec. 1, eff. Sept. 1, 1983; Acts 1987, 70th Leg., ch. 1052, Sec. 5.02, eff. Sept. 1, 1987; Acts 1989, 71st Leg., ch. 247, Sec. 16, eff. June 14, 1989; Acts 1991, 72nd Leg., ch. 14, Sec. 284(22), eff. Sept. 1, 1991; Acts 1995, 74th Leg., ch. 76, Sec. 8.043, eff. Sept. 1, 1995; Acts 1995, 74th Leg., ch. 303, Sec. 6, 15(1), eff. Sept. 1, 1995; Acts 1997, 75th Leg., ch. 1022, Sec. 54, eff. Sept. 1, 1997. Renumbered from Sec. 48.036 and amended by Acts 1999, 76th Leg., ch. 907, Sec. 5, eff. Sept. 1, 1999. Amended by Acts 2001, 77th Leg., ch. 205, Sec. 1, eff. May 21, 2001.

Amended by: Acts 2005, 79th Leg., Ch. 268, Sec. 2.08, eff. September 1, 2005.

Sec. 48.052. FAILURE TO REPORT; PENALTY.

(a) A person commits an offense if the person has cause to believe that an elderly or disabled person has been abused, neglected, or exploited or is in the state of abuse, neglect, or exploitation and knowingly fails to report in accordance with this chapter. An offense under this subsection is a Class A misdemeanor.

(b) This section does not apply if the alleged abuse, neglect, or exploitation occurred in a facility licensed under Chapter 242, Health and Safety Code. Failure to report abuse, neglect, or exploitation that occurs in a facility licensed under that chapter is governed by that chapter.

Added by Acts 1987, 70th Leg., ch. 1052, Sec. 5.03, eff. Sept. 1, 1987. Amended by Acts 1991, 72nd Leg., ch. 14, Sec. 284(21), eff. Sept. 1, 1991; Acts 1995, 74th Leg., ch. 303, Sec. 7, eff. Sept. 1, 1995; Acts 1997, 75th Leg., ch. 1278, Sec. 1, eff. Sept. 1, 1997. Renumbered from Sec. 48.0361 and amended by Acts 1999, 76th Leg., ch. 907, Sec. 6, eff. Sept. 1, 1999.

Appendix G: Recommendations and Resources for Specialized Populations

Women's Groups

Females *mandated* by a court order into a *BIPP* should be placed in a women's group. Female same-sex *batterers* should not be placed in female heterosexual *BIPP* groups.

A female *victim* voluntarily requesting to receive *BIPP* intervention services from a *program or provider* should not be placed in a *female mandated group*. *Programs or providers* should screen *victims* voluntarily requesting to receive *BIPP* intervention services to assure that coercion is not taking place. *Victims* should be provided with appropriate referral information for *victim* services.

Male Same-Sex Groups

Male same-sex *batterers* should not be placed in male heterosexual *BIPP* groups. If the *program or provider* does not have enough *batterers* to constitute a group for same-sex *batterers*, the *program or provider* may provide individual sessions.