DOMESTIC VIOLENCE PROGRAM

GUIDANCE MEMORANDUM

Office of Domestic Violence Program
January 2005
The purpose of this manual is to provide guidance for domestic violence providers. The information herein will explain the intent of the Florida Statutes and the Administrative Rules that pertain to domestic violence programs. When questions arise concerning statutes, rules, funding, and other issues of the domestic violence program, a guidance memorandum will be issued and sent to each provider. For easy access, the manual will also be posted on the web site: http://www.dcf.state.fl.us/domesticviolence/publications/index.shtml.
Domestic Violence Certification

PDDV-DVC-01 Training Standards
PDDV-DVC-02 Fire and Sanitation Inspection Standards
GUIDANCE MEMORANDUM

PDDV-DVC-01

SUBJECT: Training Standards for Certification

DATE: January 10, 2005

This guidance is provided to clarify Rule 65C-6.004(2)(d)(4), FAC, entitled “Standards for Certification, Administrative Components.”

The rule states that “all staff shall receive a minimum of 24 hours of training each year.” The intent of this rule applies only to paid and unpaid staff that meet the requirements for domestic violence advocate privilege according to s.90.5036, F.S.


If you have any questions, please contact Debra Westerman at 850-922-0703 or by e-mail at Debra_Westerman@dcf.state.fl.us.

Trula E. Motta, Director
Office of Domestic Violence Program

cc: All Certified Domestic Violence Centers
Florida Coalition Against Domestic Violence
Domestic Violence Program Guidance Manual

1317 Winewood Boulevard, Tallahassee, Florida 32399-0700

Working in partnership with communities to ensure safety, well-being and stability for the people we serve.
Batterer Intervention Program

PDDV-CBIP-01 Non-English Speaking Intervention Groups and Interpreters
GUIDANCE MEMORANDUM

PDDV-DVC-02

SUBJECT: Fire and Sanitation Inspection Standards for Certification

DATE: January 10, 2005

This guidance is provided to clarify Rule 65C-6.004(3)(a)(1) and (2), FAC, entitled “Standards for Certification, Physical Plant”.

A city, county, or special district must complete a fire inspection and a sanitation inspection of each center on a yearly basis. The rule states that “each center must have an annual fire inspection which conforms to fire safety standards as determined by the local municipality, county or special district with fire safety responsibility as defined in s.633.025, F.S.” and “each center must have an annual sanitation inspection through their local municipal, county health department or special district agency.”

It has been brought to our attention that some counties and municipalities have outsourced the inspection of sprinkler and alarm systems. Be aware that these outsourced inspections do not cover all the fire safety standards as defined in s.633.025, F.S. as required by the rule.


If you have any questions, please contact Debra Westerman at 850-922-0703 or by e-mail at Debra_Westerman@dcf.state.fl.us.

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Trula E. Motta, Director
Office of Domestic Violence Program

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PDDV-CBIP-01

SUBJECT: Non-English Speaking Intervention Groups and Interpreters

DATE: February 18, 2005

The following guidelines regarding batterers intervention groups and the use of interpreters are provided to ensure that certified programs operate uniformly and are beneficial for all participants. These guidelines are a supplement to the Certification Procedures and Minimum Standards for Assessors and Batterers Intervention Programs (January 2004).

1. Programs conducting a non-English speaking intervention group must have a facilitator who is fluent in that language, has received all the required training for facilitators, and has been approved by the Domestic Violence Program Office. Only these programs may advertise as having non-English speaking groups.

2. Groups conducted in English shall not accept a non-English speaking participant if other group(s) conducted in the participants’ native language is available within the circuit or county. The Domestic Violence Program Office may review this issue on a case-by-case basis for rural counties or when transportation is an issue.

3. Interpreters shall be used for groups with program participants who are hearing impaired, or when there are no approved facilitators in the county or circuit who are fluent in the language of one or more of the participants.

4. Family members or friends of the batterer or victim are inappropriate as interpreters and are discouraged. Options include working with community organizations and social service programs to seek volunteers with the necessary language skills.

This memorandum is effective immediately until further notice. Guidance memorandums are posted on the Internet in the Domestic Violence Program Manual at:

http://www.dcf.state.fl.us/domesticviolence/publications/index.shtml

If you have any questions, please contact Barbara Carter at 850-922-9327 or by e-mail at Barbara_A_Carter@dcf.state.fl.us.

Trula E. Motta, Director
Office of Domestic Violence Program

cc: All Certified Batterers Intervention Programs
State Court Administrator’s Office
Domestic Violence Program Guidance Manual