

# MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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JANET T. MILLS  
GOVERNOR

STATE OF MAINE  
DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTIONS  
111 STATE HOUSE STATION  
AUGUSTA MAINE  
04333-0111

RANDALL A. LIBERTY  
COMMISSIONER

# Memo

To: Anne Beebe-Center, Senate Chair, Criminal Justice and Public Safety Committee  
Travis Hasenfus, House Chair, Criminal Justice and Public Safety Committee

From: Randall A. Liberty, Commissioner, Maine Department of Corrections

Cc: Mary Anne Turowski, Senior Policy Advisor to Governor Mills

Date: February 12, 2026

Re: Annual Report on the Domestic Intervention Program in accordance with 34-A MRSA §1214.

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Dear Senator Beebe-Center, Representative Hasenfus and Members of the Criminal Justice and Public Safety Committee,

The Maine Department of Corrections submits this annual report on the Domestic Violence Intervention Programs to you in accordance with 34-A MRSA § 1214.

Should you have any questions or request further information related to the report, please contact my office.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be "RAL".

Randall A. Liberty,  
Commissioner

RAL/keb

***MDOC's Mission Statement:***

*Making our communities safer by reducing harm through supportive intervention, empowering change, and restoring lives.*

## Maine Domestic Violence Intervention Programs

This annual report regarding Maine Domestic Violence Intervention Programs (DVIPs) is provided by the Maine Department of Corrections (DOC) Office of Victim Services (OVS) and is presented to the Second Regular Session of the 132nd Maine Legislature (Title 34-A M.R.S.A. §1214(5)). This is the fifteenth annual Domestic Violence Intervention Program report. In this report, an additional report is included as provided by the Maine Coalition to End Domestic Violence (MCEDV) to present a detailed overview of the progress made on the plan described below.

A DVIP operating in the State of Maine must be certified by the DOC in order to receive court referrals (Title 17-A M.R.S.A. § 1804(6) and Title 19-A M.R.S.A. § 4116. The current DVIP certification process is outlined under DOC rule (found on the Secretary of State website, section 03-201, Chapter 15). This rule, which was last revised effective October 1, 2024, outlines the procedures and standards governing the certification and monitoring of the DVIPs, pursuant to statute. Attachment A reflects the current standards. Attachment B reflects the currently certified DVIPs across the State.

Since 2019, the DOC has contracted with the MCEDV to implement a plan for the partial reimbursement of DVIPs for indigent participation fees, training programs to sustain and expand the accessibility of DVIPs, and the reimbursement of mileage expenses for DVIP programs. Due to this continued funding, a fifth report titled “2025 Status Report on Certified Domestic Violence Intervention Programs (CDVIP)” was provided for this 2025 annual overview and submitted by MCEDV. Attachment C reflects MCEDV’s report.

As noted in the 2024 report: “the DOC applied for and was awarded the Improve the Criminal Justice Response (ICJR) program grant through the Office on Violence Against Women (OVW) for pass through funds to the MCEDV and community DVIPs totaling \$950,000 over the next three years. The goal of the funds is to develop and promote State, local, and tribal legislation and policies that enhance best practices for responding to the crimes of domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, and stalking, including the appropriate treatment of victims.” A budget modification process was initiated on January 3, 2025 to change each program’s funding due to program income from other sources, which prompted the need to seek approval through OVW and the federal Office of Chief Financial Officer (OCFO). In addition,

the federal government shutdown delayed the review of the modification. As of the end of 2025, the budget had not yet been approved by the federal government.

The OVS collects yearly data from each DVIP across the State, and the data is compiled into a statewide total. The 2025 enrollment and completion data includes: number of males reported to have enrolled in the DVIPs, males reported to have completed the programs, females reported to have enrolled in the DVIPs, and females reported to have completed the programs. The statewide combined male and female data submitted is reflected in Attachments D and E.

As well, yearly data on probation conditions for 2025 was collected using the same criteria as used since the 2018 report. It consists of offenders with a conviction for a domestic violence related charge as identified in statute and with a period of probation and has been obtained from the DOC records database Corrections Information System (CORIS). The data includes a comparison of the probation conditions imposed as part of the sentence. Probation conditions compared were (1) anger management counseling, anger management evaluation and/or domestic abuse counseling, (2) certified DVIP and (3) psychological counseling. The DOC is not able to provide data regarding those ordered to attend DVIP due to court-ordered deferred disposition, as mandated by DHHS, or by way of a referral source other than the DOC.

**The chart and graph below reflect the current (as of the end of 2025) 297 male clients on probation with a domestic violence conviction statewide with a total of 385 conditions.**

Condition	Count	Approx. Percent
Anger Management Counseling & Evaluation and Domestic Abuse Counseling	16	4%
Domestic Violence Intervention Programs	276	72%
Psychological Counseling	93	24%
Total Male Conditions	385	100%
Total Male Probationers	297	

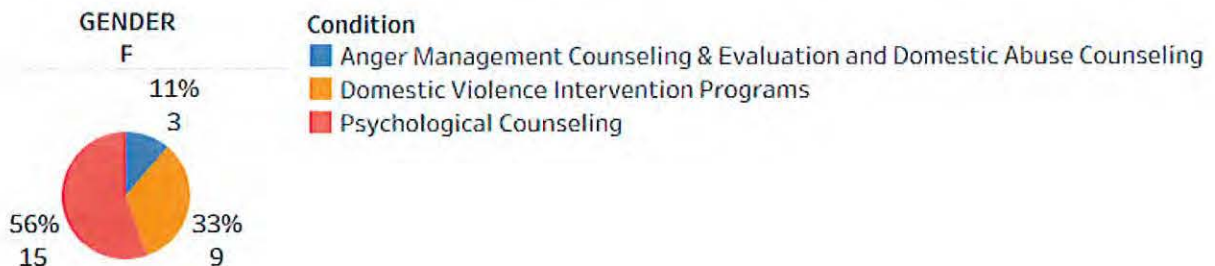


The chart below reflects the five-year percentage comparison of each condition according to each condition ordered for males by percentage.

Condition	Count 2021	Count 2022	Count 2023	Count 2024	Count 2025
Anger Management Counseling & Evaluation and Domestic Abuse Counseling	8%	4%	3%	2%	4%
Domestic Violence Intervention Program	69%	74%	75%	76%	72%
Psychological Counseling	23%	22%	22%	22%	24%
Total Male Conditions	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%

The chart and graph below reflect the current (as of the end of 2025) 21 female clients on probation with a domestic violence conviction statewide with a total of 27 conditions.

Condition	Count	Approx. Percent
Anger Management Counseling & Evaluation and Domestic Abuse Counseling	3	11%
Domestic Violence Intervention Programs	9	33%
Psychological Counseling	15	56%
Total Female Conditions	27	100%
Total Female Probationers	21	



The chart below reflects the five-year percentage comparison of each condition according to each condition ordered for females by percentage.

Condition	Count 2021	Count 2022	Count 2023	Count 2024	Count 2025
Anger Management Counseling & Evaluation and Domestic Abuse Counseling	28%	15%	14%	6%	11%
Domestic Violence Intervention Program	35%	44%	49%	50%	33%
Psychological Counseling	37%	40%	37%	44%	56%
Total Female Conditions	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%

17-A MRSA §1807, sub-§ 6, requires a court to provide justification when participation in a DVIP is not ordered as a condition of probation in sentencing a person for a domestic violence crime. This same provision requires a prosecuting attorney to provide justification when participation in a DVIP as a condition of probation is not recommended in a plea agreement for a person convicted of a domestic violence crime.

As reported since 2019, the Judicial Branch has a “Statement of Prosecuting Attorney Regarding Domestic Violence Intervention” form to be used when not recommending participation in a DVIP. Below is the number of forms submitted to the courts by prosecuting attorneys since 2021.

	Count 2021	Count 2022	Count 2023	Count 2024	Count 2025
Statement of Prosecuting Attorney Regarding Domestic Violence Intervention	24	16	14	12	10

As stated in previous reports, DOC is not able to provide additional data regarding those not ordered to attend DVIP.

For additional information from the 2024 annual report refer to the Department of Corrections Office of Victim Services website at [www.maine.gov/corrections/victimservices](http://www.maine.gov/corrections/victimservices)

This concludes this year’s report.

# **ATTACHMENT A**

Chapter 15: DOMESTIC VIOLENCE INTERVENTION PROGRAM CERTIFICATION  
(Revised 10/1/24)

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**Summary:** This rule outlines the procedures and standards governing the certification and monitoring of Domestic Violence Intervention Programs pursuant to 19-A M.R.S.A. §4116.

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**1. Procedures and Standards for Domestic Violence Intervention Programs (relating to psychological, physical, verbal and sexual abuse)**

**1.1 Definitions**

**A. Domestic Abuse**

In the context of this rule, the definition of the term “domestic abuse” refers to the definition of “abuse” in 19-A M.R.S.A. §4102 and also includes behaviors considered to be “stalking” as described in 17-A M.R.S.A. §210-A and crimes of violence described in Title 17-A, Chapter 9.

“Domestic abuse” means the occurrence of the following acts between family or household members or dating partners:

1. Attempting to cause or causing bodily injury or offensive physical contact, including sexual assaults under Title 17-A, Chapter 11, except that contact as described in 17-A M.R.S.A. §106, sub-§1 (reasonable degree of force used by a parent, guardian, etc. in response to a child’s misconduct) is excluded from this definition;
2. Attempting to place or placing another in fear of bodily injury through any course of conduct including, but not limited to, threatening, harassing, or tormenting behavior;
3. Compelling a person by force, threat of force or intimidation to engage in conduct from which the person has a right or privilege to abstain or to abstain from conduct in which the person has a right to engage;
4. Knowingly restricting substantially the movements of another person without that person's consent or other lawful authority by: removing that person from that person's residence, place of business or school; moving that person a substantial distance from the vicinity where that person was found; or confining that person for a substantial period either in the place where the restriction commences or in a place to which that person has been moved;
5. Communicating to a person a threat to commit, or to cause to be committed, a crime of violence dangerous to human life against the person to whom the communication is made or another, and the natural

and probable consequence of the threat, whether or not that consequence in fact occurs, is to place the person to whom the threat is communicated, or the person against whom the threat is made, in reasonable fear that the crime will be committed;

6. Engaging in stalking as described in 17-A M.R.S.A. §210-A, including but not limited to, repeatedly and without reasonable cause following the victim, or being at or in the vicinity of the victim's home, school, business or place of employment;
  7. Engaging in the unauthorized dissemination of certain private images as prohibited pursuant to 17-A M.R.S.A. §511-A;
  8. Engaging in aggravated sex trafficking or sex trafficking as described in 17-A M.R.S.A. §852 or §853, respectively; or
  9. Committing a crime under Title 17-A, Chapter 9, whether the crime is denominated a domestic violence crime or not.
- B. "Family or household members" means:
1. Present or former spouses or domestic partners;
  2. Individuals presently or formerly living together as spouses;
  3. Parents of the same child;
  4. Adult household members related by consanguinity or affinity;
  5. Minor children of a parent or guardian when the defendant is an adult household member of that parent or guardian;
  6. Individuals presently or formerly living together; and
  7. Individuals who are or were sexual partners.
- Holding oneself out to be a spouse is not necessary to constitute "living together as spouses." "Domestic partners" means 2 unmarried adults who are domiciled together under long-term arrangements that evidence a commitment to remain responsible indefinitely for each other's welfare.
- C. "Dating partners" means individuals currently or formerly involved in dating each other, whether or not the individuals are or were sexual partners.
- D. "Intimate partners" means dating partners or family or household members who are present or former spouses or domestic partners; individuals presently or formerly living together as spouses; parents of the same child; and individuals who are or were sexual partners.
- E. "Domestic abuse offender" means a person who has committed domestic abuse.

F. “Domestic abuse victim” means a person who has experienced domestic abuse and includes a victim of a domestic violence crime as defined by 17-A M.R.S.A. §2101(2). Note: Individuals who have experienced domestic abuse may identify themselves in a variety of ways, including using the terms “victim” or “survivor.” Domestic violence intervention programs may use the term “affected party” and may include others impacted by domestic abuse who do not meet the statutory definition of “victim,” including children or other family or household members.

G. **Coordinated Community Response**

1. Coordinated community response (“CCR”) refers to when individuals, private agencies, government agencies, and courts work together to: keep domestic abuse victims safe in the community; hold domestic abuse offenders accountable; and change the culture in the community to end domestic abuse.

H. **Domestic Violence Intervention Program**

1. The term “domestic violence intervention program” (“DVIP”) refers to a community-based educational program for adults which is one component of a coordinated community response to domestic abuse where the main goals are:

- a. working toward the safety of victims;
- b. holding domestic abuse offenders accountable for their actions; and
- c. ending domestic abuse.

I. **Domestic Violence Center**

1. The term “domestic violence center” (“DVC”) refers to a network of programs and services for victims of domestic abuse. There are two coalitions of domestic violence centers in Maine.

The Maine Coalition to End Domestic Violence (“MCEDV”) is comprised of ten member organizations, including eight of Maine’s local domestic violence centers. Each domestic violence center is a private, independent, nonprofit agency which provides individual crisis intervention, legal information, and advocacy for individuals affected by domestic abuse, as well as support groups and shelter options for victims of domestic abuse and their children. These services are confidential, free of charge, and trauma responsive. In addition, domestic violence centers provide training, education, and consultation to community groups, schools, public officials, and services providers to improve the community’s response to domestic abuse.

The Wabanaki Women’s Coalition (“WWC”) is comprised of the five tribal domestic violence centers that serve the Wabanaki tribes in Maine

(Penobscot Nation, Indian Township, Passamaquoddy, Malisset, and Micmac Domestic and Sexual Violence Advocacy Centers). Each of these tribal domestic violence centers is a nonprofit agency which provides individual crisis intervention, legal information, and advocacy for individuals affected by domestic abuse, as well as support groups and shelter options for victims of domestic abuse and their children. These services are culturally specific, confidential, free of charge, and trauma responsive. In addition, they provide training, education, and consultation to community groups, schools, public officials, and service providers to improve the tribal community's response to domestic abuse.

- J. **Monitoring** consists of observation of and consultation about the performance/operation of a DVIP program in order to promote the safety of victims of domestic abuse. Monitoring must be provided by staff of a DVC or by a third party monitor as outlined in section 5.8.
- K. **Supervision** is the internal oversight of the process and content of a DVIP program by staff consisting of a qualified primary supervisor as described in section 4.5.
- L. **Staff** means both paid and unpaid staff.

## 2. Certification

### 2.1 Oversight of the Maine Standards for Domestic Violence Intervention Programs

- A. The Department of Corrections ("DOC") shall be the lead agency responsible for implementation of these standards, pursuant to 19-A M.R.S.A §4116, coordinated through its Director of Victim Services.
- B. The DOC, in consultation with the Maine Commission on Domestic and Sexual Abuse, shall develop and, on a biannual basis, review a certification process for DVIP programs. The review process may include input from representatives of the following agencies and organizations and any others deemed appropriate by the DOC:
  - 1. domestic violence centers;
  - 2. domestic violence intervention programs;
  - 3. the judicial system;
  - 4. local, county, and State law enforcement agencies;
  - 5. victims of domestic abuse;
  - 6. health and human service agencies;
  - 7. schools;

8. hospital emergency departments;
  9. community corrections;
  10. groups working with victims of child abuse;
  11. groups working with victims of sexual abuse;
  12. organizations coordinating supervised visitation; and/or
  13. organizations providing services to diverse populations.
- C. Only DVIP programs that hold a current certification granted by the DOC shall be utilized for court referrals, since, as provided by 17-A M.R.S.A. §1807(2)(D-1), a court may not order and the State may not pay for a person to attend a domestic violence intervention program, as a condition of probation, unless the program is certified under Title 19-A M.R.S.A. §4116. While most participants are court referred, DVIP programs are not limited to court referrals.

## 2.2 Application for Certification

- A. Each DVIP program requesting certification or renewal of certification shall submit a completed application to the DOC containing all of the information requested, to include, but not be limited to:
1. demonstration of the DVIP program's ability to meet these standards;
  2. an overview of the DVIP program's content;
  3. proof of successful completion for all DVIP program educators of a national domestic violence intervention training or similar training recommended by MCEDV or WWC and approved by the DOC;
  4. documentation of a working agreement with the local DVC in each county the DVIP program may operate in or request for waiver of this requirement providing specific reasons for the request;
  5. documentation of a working agreement with the DOC Regional Correctional Administrator for each adult community corrections region the DVIP program may operate in;
  6. demonstration of the need for a DVIP program, or another DVIP program, in the geographic area (initial certification only);
  7. name, address, and telephone number of the DVIP program and all sites;
  8. a statement of ownership of the DVIP program that discloses the names, addresses, and telephone numbers of all owners, directors, and officers of the corporation, and any members of any governing or advisory boards;

9. identification of the DVIP program's intended participant population, the curriculum to be used, and how the DVIP program will serve that population; and
  10. detailed outline of program format for both in-person and videoconferencing attendance which complies with Section 4.1.A, including eligibility, coordination, collaboration, and notification. (DVIP programs are not required to offer videoconferencing, and the provision of videoconferencing is at the discretion of the DVIP program, unless required due to a state of emergency as outlined in Section 11.)
- B. A DVIP program shall be assessed an application fee for initial certification or renewal of certification.
- C. Certification of a DVIP program shall be for a period of two years unless revoked or suspended as outlined in these standards.

### 2.3 Denial of, Refusal to Renew, or Suspension and/or Revocation of Certification

#### A. Definitions

1. **Denial:** action taken by DOC to not initially certify a DVIP program.
2. **Refusal to Renew:** action taken by DOC at the end of a two year certification period rejecting a DVIP program's application for renewal.
3. **Suspension:** action taken by DOC in lieu of revoking or refusing renewal of certification that stipulates the DVIP program must correct the noted deficiencies within the time specified.
4. **Revocation:** action taken by DOC removing a DVIP program's certification after the DOC has certified the Program, but before the DVIP program's two year certification has expired.

Any of these actions make the affected DVIP program ineligible to receive any court referrals unless and until the program is certified, its certification is renewed, or the suspension is lifted, whichever is applicable.

- B. Each of the following, in and of itself, may constitute full and adequate grounds on which to deny, refuse to renew, suspend, or revoke certification to operate a DVIP program:
1. failure to submit information required for certification;
  2. failure to meet any of these standards for DVIP programs;
  3. denial of entry to DOC staff to conduct site visits or inspections or any other attempt to impede the work of staff of the DOC;

4. obtaining or attempting to obtain certification by fraud, misrepresentation, or by the submission of incorrect, false, and/or misleading information;
5. criminal conduct by the owners, administrators, or staff as set out in Section 4.5;
6. operation of a DVIP program after the expiration of certification;
7. operation of a DVIP program in a manner which fails to fulfill the terms of the DVIP program – domestic abuse offender agreement; or
8. operation of a DVIP program in a manner which endangers the health or safety of domestic abuse offenders and/or domestic abuse victims or current intimate partners of domestic abuse offenders.

#### **2.4 Recourse of Program when Certification has been Denied, Refused Renewal, Suspended, and/or Revoked**

- A. A DVIP program the certification of which has been denied, refused renewal, suspended, or revoked by DOC shall receive in writing, by certified mail, a program compliance letter outlining the standards that the Program is not in compliance with and the time frames allowed to bring the DVIP program into compliance.
- B. The DVIP program has 60 days from the date of notification of denial, refusal of renewal, suspension, or revocation of certification, whichever is applicable, to resubmit an application or provide additional information, as applicable, indicating that the DVIP program has complied with the standards. The DOC Director of Victim Services, or designee, shall respond to this information within 60 days of receipt. If the response is to continue with the initial decision, it shall be by certified mail.
- C. The DVIP program may appeal that response by sending an appeal by certified mail to the DOC Commissioner of Corrections within fifteen days of receipt of the response.
- D. The DOC Commissioner, or designee, has 60 days from receipt of a timely appeal to make a final decision, after consultation with the Maine Commission on Domestic and Sexual Abuse. There is no other administrative appeal allowed.

### **3. Coordinated Community Response to Domestic Abuse**

#### **3.1 Goals**

- A. To end domestic abuse through meaningful reciprocal collaboration that focuses on victim safety and offender accountability.

### **3.2 Coordinated Community Response to Domestic Abuse**

- A. DVIProgram staff shall consult, cooperate, and coordinate with representatives of the following agencies and organizations which are responsible for referral, oversight, monitoring, and/or accountability services:
1. domestic violence centers;
  2. criminal legal system, including prosecutor's offices;
  3. community corrections;
  4. health and human service agencies; and
  5. any other referral sources.
- B. An effective response to domestic abuse relies upon a coordinated community response (CCR) in which community partners respond with consistent messages and interventions that prioritize victim safety and autonomy along with accountability for offenders. DVIPrograms with appropriate oversight and monitoring are an essential part of the CCR but cannot solve the problem of domestic abuse alone. As members of a CCR, DVIProgram staff are encouraged to consult, cooperate, and coordinate with representatives of the following agencies and organizations in addition to those listed in Section A:
1. other certified DVIPrograms;
  2. groups working with victims of domestic abuse, including victim led groups;
  3. schools, including community adult education programs;
  4. hospital emergency departments;
  5. groups working with victims of child abuse;
  6. groups working with victims of sexual violence;
  7. organizations coordinating supervised visitation;
  8. organizations providing services to marginalized populations; and
  9. other related services.

### **3.3 DVIProgram – Domestic Violence Center Collaboration**

- A. The DVIProgram shall acknowledge the experience of victims, who are experts on their own safety, and the important role of the local DVC in responding to domestic abuse through:

1. consulting with the local DVC on all written curricula, publications, program format decisions, and public relations materials of the DVIP program;
2. publicly acknowledging the contributions of the battered women's movement to their efforts and that DVIP programs exist in support of the goals of the DVCs;
3. consulting with the local DVC when seeking funds in a way that competes with funding for the DVC;
4. always encouraging victims to contact their local DVC;
5. inviting the local DVC's advocates to attend DVIP program groups;
6. participating in a community response to domestic abuse; and
7. negotiating an ongoing working relationship with the local DVC and integrating feedback in order to hold the DVIP program responsible to the principles of victim safety and offender accountability, which are central to the movement to end domestic abuse, acknowledging that a working relationship may go beyond these standards.

#### **3.4 Victim/Partner Contacts**

- A. A victim/partner contact is the exchange of information between a victim or a current intimate partner of a domestic abuse offender and a designated representative of the local DVC and/or the DVIP program as allowed in this standard.
- B. The purpose of a victim/partner contact initiated by a DVC is to provide the victim or partner, as applicable, with:
  1. support and validation;
  2. information about the DVIP program;
  3. information about local resources for victims;
  4. assistance in developing a safety plan; and
  5. information about the DVC as an ongoing resource for victims.
- C. Within seven days of enrollment of a domestic abuse offender in a DVIP program, unless the time frame is modified by a working agreement with the local DVC, the DVIP program shall provide the local DVC with the names of and all known contact information for:
  1. the domestic abuse offender;

2. any adult or child victim identified in available police reports, during court proceedings, and/or by the referral source; and
3. any current intimate partner of the domestic abuse offender.

D. A DVIP program shall initiate contact with a domestic abuse victim and/or current intimate partner, as applicable, in the following situations unless contact information is not available or as otherwise specified below:

1. as provided in Section 8 when a DVIP program educator has a reasonable belief that a domestic abuse offender enrolled in the DVIP program is likely to engage in physical violence that poses a serious risk of harm to the victim or partner;
2. to provide notification of the domestic abuse offender's admission into the DVIP program, including start date and program format (by written communication only);
3. to provide notification of when the domestic abuse offender is discharged or is approved for a leave of absence from the DVIP program (by written communication only); and
4. to provide notification of when a change in the format of DVIP program classes occurs or when a change in format is made for the specific domestic abuse offender.

Note: If the victim is a child, depending on their age and circumstances, contact may be made indirectly by contacting a parent, guardian, or legal custodian.

E. Safety and applicable confidentiality laws must be considered in all contact made by DVIP programs with victims and/or current intimate partners of domestic abuse offenders.

A DVIP program must not initiate contact with a domestic abuse victim or current intimate partner if such contact would jeopardize the safety of the victim or partner, the domestic abuse offender, or DVIP program staff, or would violate federal or state confidentiality laws.

F. Should a domestic abuse victim or current intimate partner initiate contact with a DVIP program:

1. the victim or current partner, as applicable, must always be provided information about the local DVC for supportive services; and
2. when applicable:
  - a. the victim or partner must be advised about how to report a domestic abuse offender's conduct, including violations of probation conditions or bail or other court orders; and

- b. the victim or partner must be informed about confidentiality policies that apply to disclosures made by domestic abuse victims or current intimate partners to DVIP program staff.

### 3.5 Financial Responsibility for DVIP program - DVC Collaboration

Any costs incurred as the result of supervision, training, and/or monitoring by a DVC or a third party monitor of a DVIP program shall be reimbursed by the DVIP program, except for costs incurred by the DVC for providing services to partners in the context of their outreach efforts.

## 4. DVIP program Model

### 4.1 DVIP program Format

#### A. DVIP programs must:

1. be held in an in-person group format unless the DVIP program permits videoconferencing as noted in its application for certification or renewal of certification under Section 2.2.A.10. or the program is granted a waiver by DOC;
2. consist of one or more groups with no more than 17 participants nor fewer than 3 participants enrolled per group, unless the program is granted a waiver by DOC;
3. be educationally oriented;
4. be restricted to domestic abuse offenders;
5. have same gender group(s) only;
6. have rolling or open admission;
7. be held in real time only (synchronous); and
8. if the format is videoconferencing, have participation be on camera for the full duration of each class except as otherwise approved by the educator(s).

#### B. DVIP program Educators

1. Except as set out below, a group must be co-educated by both a male and a female co-educator, unless the program is granted a waiver by DOC. "Co-educated" means that each co-educator contributes substantially equally in the facilitation process.
2. A group serving female domestic abuse offenders may be co-educated by two female co-educators.

3. At the discretion of the DVIP Program Director, an exception to the co-education requirement may be made for an individual class or classes to accommodate special circumstances, including, but not limited to, illness, vacation, weather, etc.
  4. All co-educators must be appropriately trained in a national domestic violence intervention training or similar training recommended by MCEDV or WWC and approved by the DOC.
- C. There shall be no recording of any program activity except for quality assurance purposes by educators and/or monitors only. Recordings shall not be disseminated. Each DVIP Program shall have a protocol in place to ensure that any recording is destroyed within 30 days after the recording is made.

#### **4.2 Inappropriate DVIP Program Format**

- A. The following formats and methods must not be used by DVIP Programs:
1. individual counseling;
  2. couples or conjoint counseling;
  3. anger management;
  4. systems therapy;
  5. addiction counseling (identifying violence as an addiction);
  6. family therapy;
  7. medication management; or
  8. asynchronous classes.
- B. Unless specifically authorized in these standards or approved by the DVIP Program and local DVC, educators must not knowingly provide or maintain concurrent ongoing services to a domestic abuse offender and the offender's victim, current intimate partner, or minor child.

#### **4.3 Participant Population**

- A. These standards are specifically designed for adults who abuse their intimate partners, although other domestic abuse offenders may participate in DVIP Programs at program discretion.
- B. DVIP Programs shall implement models that address the participant population served.

#### 4.4 Length of the DVIP Program

- A. A DVIP Program must be a minimum of 48 classes over a minimum of 48 weeks in duration.
- B. Each weekly session must be at least 90 minutes long, and the bulk of the session must focus on curriculum content.
- C. Each participant's attendance must occur at a rate of one class per week.
- D. The DVIP Program intake must not be considered one of the 48 weeks.
- E. Domestic abuse offenders who have completed a minimum 48 week DVIP Program may be given the opportunity of voluntarily continuing their participation or returning to the DVIP Program at a later date.

#### 4.5 DVIP Program Staff Selection, Training, and Supervision

- A. DVIP Program staff must not have been subject to any final PFA or PFH order for which the petitioning party was a family or household member or dating partner within the last ten years and must not be the defendant in a pending PFA or PFH proceeding for which the petitioning party is a family or household member or dating partner.
- B. Staff must not have had any criminal conviction within the last ten years for any crime listed in Title 17-A, chapters 9, 11, 12, or 13 or sections 506, 506-A, 506-B, 511, 511-A, 554, 555, or 758 or substantially similar conduct in another jurisdiction.
- C. Staff must not be on administrative release, probation, parole, supervised release for sex offenders, or other supervision post-conviction, bail conditions, or deferred disposition for any crime listed in Title 17-A, chapters 9, 11, 12, or 13 or sections 506, 506-A, 506-B, 511, 511-A, 554, 555, or 758 or substantially similar conduct in another jurisdiction.
- D. A DVIP Program shall develop and maintain additional hiring criteria.
- E. All DVIP Program staff having direct contact with domestic abuse offenders must:
  - 1. receive training in a curriculum used by the DVIP Program that is based upon, and adheres to, models developed by nationally recognized programs or similar training in a curriculum determined to be sufficient by the DOC and that is consistent with these standards;
  - 2. provide certification of completion of this training prior to or within 6 months of being hired to co-educate groups, unless the program is granted a waiver by DOC;

3. be provided with on the job training with an experienced supervisor, to include a minimum of observation of six sessions of a group, followed by co-educating an additional six sessions of a group with a trained experienced educator, prior to assuming responsibility for a group; and
4. attend a minimum of 6 hours per year continuing education on topics agreed upon by MCEDV, WWC, and DOC.

It is the responsibility of the primary supervisor of the DVIP program to maintain all training records.

- F. Any individual identified as the Program Director or a "primary supervisor" must have at least two years documented experience in the following areas:
1. direct work with victims;
  2. direct work with domestic abuse offenders;
  3. work with individuals in a group setting; and
  4. supervision of employees.

#### **4.6 DVIP Program Curriculum**

- A. The DVIP program must include at a minimum in its curriculum that:
1. stress, a life crisis, and substance use disorder are not causes of domestic abuse, but ongoing substance abuse increases the risk of re-offense;
  2. domestic abuse is a choice a domestic abuse offender makes to exercise power and control over an intimate partner;
  3. domestic abuse offenders are solely and exclusively responsible for their controlling and abusive behavior;
  4. the effect of domestic abuse on victims, including children who witness abuse, is harmful; and
  5. abuse is never justified.

#### **4.7 DVIP Program Fee**

- A. A DVIP program may charge a fee for participation.
- B. Except for federal, state, or charitable organization funding (which must not include insurance), a domestic abuse offender is solely responsible for paying any fee for participation in a DVIP program.

**5. Administrative Standards**

**5.1 DVIP Program Intake Process**

- A. The DVIP Program shall schedule an intake into the DVIP Program within two weeks from the time the domestic abuse offender contacts the DVIP Program, absent good cause for a later intake.
- B. At the intake, the domestic abuse offender shall be required to enter into a written agreement with the DVIP Program, which must include the following:
  - 1. the responsibilities of the domestic abuse offender;
  - 2. the responsibilities of the DVIP Program;
  - 3. an agreement to stop all forms of abuse;
  - 4. the minimum length of the DVIP Program;
  - 5. signed information sharing agreements and/or appropriate releases that acknowledge the limitations of participant confidentiality;
  - 6. the fee structure and the fee due from the offender, if any;
  - 7. the criteria for discharge;
  - 8. a copy of the complaint procedure;
  - 9. the readmission criteria; and
  - 10. the program format.
- C. During intake, the DVIP Program must obtain the following information from the domestic abuse offender, unless already provided by the referral source:
  - 1. full legal name of the domestic abuse offender;
  - 2. current physical address;
  - 3. current mailing address (if different from physical address);
  - 4. current home telephone number, cell phone number, or telephone number of contact if the domestic abuse offender does not have a telephone;
  - 5. date of birth;
  - 6. name of employer and current work address and telephone number of employer;

7. victim name(s) and all known contact information;  
(Note: if the offender has been ordered by a criminal court to attend a certified DVIP program and the police incident report and victim contact information have not been provided by the prosecuting attorney within 7 days of the issuance of the court order as required by 19-A M.R.S.A. §4116, the DVIP program must contact the prosecuting attorney requesting the information.)
  8. current intimate partner name and all known contact information (if different from victim);
  9. current driver's license or State-issued ID number or other photo ID card number if the domestic abuse offender does not have a driver's license or State-issued ID;
  10. make, model, year and license plate number of any vehicles used by the domestic abuse offender;
  11. history of any substance abuse;
  12. any psychiatric history, including homicidal and suicidal ideation;
  13. any history of any weapons possession or usage; and
  14. history of abusive behaviors.
- D. Within six weeks after the domestic abuse offender begins the DVIP program, the offender must provide the DVIP program with the following independent descriptions of the domestic abuse offender's abusive behavior, including, but not limited to:
1. police reports (if applicable);
  2. administrative release, probation, parole, supervised release for sex offenders, or other post-conviction supervision or deferred disposition conditions (if applicable);
  3. legal pleadings, including, but not limited to, civil petitions and civil and criminal complaints (if applicable);
  4. court orders, including, but not limited to, protective orders, and court-approved consent agreements (if applicable); and
  5. previous child protective service reports (if applicable and available).
- E. Within seven days of acceptance into the DVIP program, the DVIP program must notify the following in writing of the domestic abuse offender's acceptance into the program and the program format, unless the time frame is modified by the working agreement with the local DVC:
1. the domestic abuse offender;

2. the victim and/or current intimate partner, as applicable, unless notification would jeopardize the safety of the victim, the partner, the domestic abuse offender, or DVIP program staff, or would violate federal or state confidentiality laws;
  3. the domestic abuse offender's Probation Officer (if applicable);
  4. the local DVC; and
  5. the referral source, including, but not limited to, the prosecuting attorney's office, pre-trial agency, or Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS).
- F. At minimum, the information to be contained in the communication referred to in section 5.1 E must include:
1. the date the domestic abuse offender begins the DVIP program;
  2. limitations of the DVIP program; and
  3. that victims and/or current intimate partners are not required to have any contact with the DVC and/or DVIP program.
- G. A copy of the participant agreement must be provided to the referral source and pre-trial agency (if applicable). A copy of the agreement must be made available upon request by the victim or local DVC.
- H. A DVIP program may only accept referrals of persons residing in a county in which the DVIP program has a working agreement with the local DVC, unless the program is granted a waiver by DOC.

## **5.2 DVIP Program Discharge or Leave**

- A. Reasons for discharge from a DVIP program must include that:
1. the domestic abuse offender has five absences during the 48-week DVIP program, not including any absences occurring during an approved leave of absence; or
  2. the domestic abuse offender has failed to pay the weekly fee determined by the DVIP program for four sessions.
- B. Reasons for discharge from a DVIP program may include that:
1. the domestic abuse offender has completed the 48 week program to the satisfaction of the DVIP program staff, based upon the criteria contained in the participant agreement;
  2. the offender has committed additional domestic abuse; or

3. the offender has not complied with the rules of the DVIP program.
- C. A domestic abuse offender may receive a medical or other leave of absence for good cause with the approval of the Program Director, who must consult with the referral source before deciding whether to grant approval. If the leave is approved, upon their return to the program, the offender is allowed to continue the DVIP program from the last class prior to the approved leave.
- D. The following must be notified in writing within seven days of the domestic abuse offender's discharge or leave of absence from the DVIP program:
1. the domestic abuse offender;
  2. the victim and/or current intimate partner, as applicable, unless notification would jeopardize the safety of the victim, the partner, the domestic abuse offender, or DVIP program staff, or would violate federal or state confidentiality laws;
  3. the domestic abuse offender's Probation Officer (if applicable) (the Probation Officer must also be immediately notified verbally of a discharge, unless the discharge was due to the offender's completion of the program);
  4. the local DVC;
  5. the prosecuting attorney's office if a Probation Officer is not involved;
  6. DHHS if involved; and
  7. the presiding judge of the Domestic Violence Monitoring Docket, if the domestic abuse offender is enrolled in a Domestic Violence Monitoring Docket.
- E. At minimum, the information to be contained in the communication referenced in section 5.2 E must include:
1. the date the domestic abuse offender was discharged or given leave from the DVIP program;
  2. the reason for discharge or leave (Note: if the reason is medical, the details of the situation must not be revealed, only that the reason is a medical one); and
  3. any recommendations, which may include, but are not limited to, assessment for additional services or further action by the Probation Officer, which may include revocation.

### **5.3 Re-Admission to DVIP program after Discharge**

- A. Except as set out below, a domestic abuse offender who has not successfully completed 48 weeks and is allowed to return after being discharged must start at

intake unless the domestic abuse offender is allowed to start at week one by the Program Director.

- B. If the discharge was based upon absences, it is the first discharge based upon absences, and the offender is re-enrolled within three months of discharge, the offender may be allowed by the Program Director to start at five classes before the last class prior to discharge.
- C. If the offender is re-enrolled more than three months after discharge or if the re-enrollment occurs after a second or subsequent discharge based upon absences, the offender must start at intake unless the domestic abuse offender is allowed to start at week one by the Program Director.
- D. If the discharge was for non-payment of fees, after consultation with the referral source, the Program Director may allow the offender to receive credit for all classes attended and paid in full as long as the offender continues to pay the fee on schedule after the offender's return.
- E. Notwithstanding the above, any domestic abuse offender who has not successfully completed 48 weeks and is allowed to return after being discharged and who was discharged due to committing additional domestic abuse or who committed additional domestic abuse after discharge must start at intake.

#### **5.4 Transfer of Credits**

- A. A certified DVIP program must accept transfer of credits for weeks satisfactorily completed at another DVIP program certified by the DOC provided the domestic abuse offender was in good standing with the other program at the time of transfer and no more than three months has elapsed since the last class attended at the previous DVIP program. Absent good cause, no transfer of credit may occur if more than three months has elapsed since the last class attended at the previous DVIP program.
- B. Each participant requesting transfer of credit must obtain a letter of referral from the previous program, setting forth the number of weekly credits that the domestic abuse offender has earned, the number of absences, and that the participant is in good standing, and present it to the new program prior to receiving any credit(s) for weeks completed.

#### **5.5 Complaint Procedure**

- A. Before filing any complaint against a DVIP program, the domestic abuse offender shall make an attempt to resolve the complaint in an informal manner by talking with the educator(s).
- B. If unable to come to an agreement with the educator(s), the offender shall contact the Program Director, who shall attempt, as soon as possible, to resolve the complaint.
- C. If the complaint remains unresolved, a formal written complaint may be made to the Department of Corrections, 111 State House Station, Augusta, Maine

04333-0111, Attention: Director of Victim Services. A copy of the complaint must be provided by the offender to the DVIP Program Director, local DVC, and referral source.

- D. A victim may file a formal written complaint to the Department of Corrections, 111 State House Station, Augusta, Maine 04333-0111, Attention: Director of Victim Services. A copy of the complaint must be provided by the Director of Victim Services to the DVIP Program Director and the local DVC.
- E. Upon receipt of a complaint, the Director of Victim Services shall investigate to determine if there has been a violation of these standards and, if so, shall determine what corrective or other action to take.
- F. The Director of Victim Services shall respond to a written complaint within 60 days of its receipt.

#### **5.6 Confidentiality**

- A. All written and/or oral communications, including electronic communications, between the DVIP Program and victims and current intimate partners must be kept confidential by the DVIP Program, except in order to comply with mandatory reporting requirements or duty to warn, or as necessary to respond to a complaint filed by a victim with the DOC Director of Victim Services.
- B. Notwithstanding the above, the DVIP Program may provide information to a DVC so that the DVC may offer safety planning resources.

#### **5.7 Record Keeping**

- A. Domestic abuse offender and victim and/or current intimate partner records (if any) must be maintained in separate files with no record or reference of victim/partner contact in the offender's file beyond the initial letter to the victim and/or partner about the domestic abuse offender's admission into the DVIP Program.
- B. There must be at least minimal documentation for each group session attended by a domestic abuse offender, which must include:
  - 1. date;
  - 2. topic; and
  - 3. amount of time spent in group.
- C. Monthly status reports must be provided by the DVIP Program to the domestic abuse offender's Probation Officer or other referral source. Reports must include, but are not limited to, the following information:
  - 1. attendance;
  - 2. current payment status; and

3. compliance with other DVIP program rules.

### **5.8 Approval and Monitoring Process**

- A. The DVIP program must arrange for monitors to attend a DVIP program class at least quarterly per educator pair. Monitoring may occur more frequently upon agreement between the DVIP program and the local DVC or third party monitor, as applicable.
- B. The DVIP program must arrange for monitors to provide verbal communication to the DVIP program regarding the performance/operation of each observed class immediately after the class and written communication within 30 days. The DVIP program is required to provide the documentation of monitoring to the DOC Director of Victim Services. It shall also be provided to the local DVC (unless the monitoring was by the local DVC).
- C. Third party monitors must be utilized when the local DVC is unable, unwilling, or fails to monitor the DVIP program or is operating the DVIP program.
  1. Selection of third party monitors must be made pursuant to criteria developed by the DOC, MCEdV, and WWC.
  2. When a new third party monitor is used, the DVIP program is required to provide the monitor's name and qualifications to the DOC Director of Victim Services, the local DVC, WWC, and MCEdV.
  3. Documentation of monitoring sessions must be sent to the local DVC.

### **6. Waiver**

- A. The DOC may waive the requirements of these standards if and only if a waiver is specifically allowed in these rules.
- B. All requests for waivers must be directed to the DOC's Director of Victims Services, who has sole discretion regarding the final decision on the waiver request.

### **7. Other Programs**

- A. Programs offered in a jail or DOC correctional facility do not meet the definition of a certified DVIP program. Credit toward attending a certified DVIP program must not be given or transferred for any participation in any jail or DOC correctional facility program.
- B. Programs operating outside of the State of Maine do not meet the definition of a certified DVIP program. Credit toward attending a certified DVIP program must not be given or transferred for any participation in an out of state program.

- C. On-line/videoconferencing/phone programs, other than videoconferencing/phone programs provided by a DOC certified DVIP program as set forth in these standards, do not meet the definition of a certified DVIP program. Credit toward attending a certified DVIP program must not be given or transferred for any participation in such an on-line/videoconferencing/phone program.

## 8. Duty to Warn

- A. When DVIP program staff has a reasonable belief based on statements by a domestic abuse offender enrolled in a DVIP program or information from the victim/current intimate partner or another person that the domestic abuse offender is likely to engage in physical violence that poses a serious risk of harm to self or others, the staff must promptly warn the following persons or agencies that would best promote the safety of the person at risk and the DVIP program staff:
1. appropriate local, county, and/or state law enforcement agency(ies);
  2. the person at risk, if current contact information is available;
  3. the offender's Probation Officer, if applicable; and/or
  3. appropriate DVC(s).
- B. The duty imposed under this subsection may not be interpreted to require DVIP program staff to take any action that in the reasonable professional judgment of the DVIP program staff would endanger the DVIP program staff or increase the risk to the safety of a victim or current intimate partner or the domestic abuse offender.
- C. Nothing in these standards may be construed to imply that any information shared by a domestic abuse offender in class or with DVIP program staff is privileged, protected, or otherwise confidential information. This includes observations of the offender by program staff. Program staff may share any information about a person's participation in the program with the referral source, victim, current intimate partner, or local DVC at their discretion.

## 9. Mandatory Reporting

### A. Required report of child abuse or neglect to DHHS

DVIP program staff must immediately report or cause a report to be made to the DHHS Child Protective Services and/or Indian Child Welfare Act caseworker when the staff knows or has reasonable cause to suspect that a child has been or is likely to be abused or neglected by a person responsible for the child or that a suspicious child death has been caused by a person responsible for the child.

### B. Required report of child abuse or neglect to Prosecutor's Office

DVIP program staff must immediately report or cause a report to be made to the appropriate prosecutor's office when the staff knows or has reasonable cause to suspect that a child has been or is likely to be abused or neglected by a person not responsible

for the child or that a suspicious child death has been caused by a person not responsible for the child.

**C. Required report of incapacitated or dependent adult abuse, neglect or exploitation to DHHS**

DVProgram staff must immediately report or cause a report to be made to DHHS when the person knows or has reasonable cause to suspect that an incapacitated or dependent adult has been or is likely to be abused, neglected, or exploited.

**10. Ethics**

- A. DVProgram staff shall not discriminate against a domestic abuse offender, victim, current intimate partner, or other person based on age, race, ethnicity, religion, gender, gender identity, sexual orientation, disability, national origin, or socioeconomic status.
- B. A domestic abuse offender should be treated with dignity and respect by program staff regardless of the nature of the offender's crimes or conduct.

**11. Declaration of State of Emergency**

- A. This section may be invoked by the DOC in the event that the Governor has declared a State of Emergency or at the discretion of the DOC, in consultation with the Maine Commission on Domestic and Sexual Abuse, in order to respond to serious health and safety risks.
  - 1. A DVProgram shall, if possible, be held in an in-person group format that complies with all guidelines relating to the State of Emergency or as determined by the DOC, as applicable.
  - 2. If it is not possible for a DVProgram to hold an in-person group that complies with all such guidelines, the DVProgram shall offer a video conferencing group.
  - 3. If a domestic abuse offender or the DVProgram has reasonable and articulable health and safety related concerns related to another specific offender, the DVProgram shall inform the referral source, and the domestic abuse offender shall be given the option to participate with an in-person group via video conferencing or to participate in a video conferencing group, as applicable.
  - 4. Participation in a group via video conferencing must be on camera for the full duration of the class, except as outlined in section 11.A.6, or as otherwise approved by the educator(s).
  - 5. Participation via video conferencing must be in real time only. There shall be no recording of a video conferencing class except for quality assurance purposes by educators and/or monitors only. Recordings must not be disseminated. Each DVProgram shall have a protocol in place to ensure that any recording is destroyed within 30 days after the recording is made.

6. If a domestic abuse offender for whom there are health and safety related concerns does not have access to video conferencing technology, the domestic abuse offender may be given the option to participate via a phone call to an in-person group or video conferencing group. The use of this option to deliver the program must occur only in consultation with the referral source and must be limited to only that period of time necessary to allow the domestic abuse offender to gain access to video conferencing technology.
  7. A DVIP program must notify victims, current intimate partners, the local DVC, MCEDV, and DOC about any changes to the DVIP program format, unless notification would jeopardize the safety of a victim, a current intimate partner, the domestic abuse offender, or DVIP program staff, or would violate federal or state confidentiality laws.
  8. Notification must include information about local victim advocacy services. The DVIP program shall provide all known victim and current intimate partner contact information to the DVC so that a victim advocate may contact the victim and/or current intimate partner, unless the contact would jeopardize the safety of the victim, the partner, the domestic abuse offender, or a victim advocate, or would violate federal or state confidentiality laws;.
- B. These standards must be followed in all other respects.
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**STATUTORY AUTHORITY:**

19-A M.R.S.A. §4014; Resolve 2013 ch. 3

**EFFECTIVE DATE:**

April 29, 1998 (Major Substantive)

**STATUTORY AUTHORITY:**

19-A M.R.S.A. §4014(1). The Maine Department of Corrections is adopting a proposal to revise the existing standards for the certification of batterer intervention programs pursuant to 19-A M.R.S.A. §4014 (1) to revise the Standards as a result of the 2002 biannual review. The Maine Department of Corrections developed the proposed rules in consultation with the Maine Commission on Domestic and Sexual Abuse in accordance with the provisions of 19-A M.R.S.A. §4014(1). The proposed revisions to the Batterer Intervention standards will result in improved operation of the Batterer Intervention Programs.

**EFFECTIVE DATE:**

June 26, 2003 - filing 2003-167 (Major Substantive)

**STATUTORY AUTHORITY:** 19-A M.R.S.A. §4014(1). The Maine Department of Corrections is adopting a proposal to revise the existing standards for the certification of batterer intervention programs pursuant to 19-A M.R.S.A. §4014 (1) to revise the Standards as a result of the 2004 biannual review. The Maine Department of Corrections developed the proposed rules in consultation with the Maine Commission on Domestic and Sexual Abuse in accordance with the provisions of 19A M.R.S.A. §4014(1). The proposed revisions to the Batterer Intervention standards will result in improved operation of the Batterer Intervention Programs.

**EFFECTIVE DATE:**

July 23, 2005 - filing 2005-247 (Major Substantive)

**REPEALED AND REPLACED:**

June 20, 2008 – filing 2009-211 (Major Substantive)

April 4, 2013 – filing 2013-074 (EMERGENCY, Routine Technical)

August 11, 2013 – filing 2013-198 (Routine Technical)

November 13, 2017 – filing 2017-172 (Routine Technical)

**CORRECTED:**

May 17, 2018 – Section 5.5, reinserted paragraph D.

May 18, 2018 – Section 5.5, changed the Section heading by removing the word  
“Participant”.

**AMENDED:**

January 15, 2021 – filing 2021-002 (Routine Technical)

**REPEALED AND REPLACED:**

September 28, 2024 – filing 2024-217

# **ATTACHMENT B**

# Certified Domestic Violence Intervention Programs

Program	Meeting Time	Meeting Location
<b>Androscoggin</b>		
<b>Alternatives to Abuse (Safe Voices) (Male Program)</b>  Director: Zach Griffith  P.O. Box 713  Auburn, ME 04212  (207) 207-212-6827  zgriffith@safevoices.org  (Certified until 9/14/2027)	Please come fill out the Intake form to learn more	To Enroll in class, please fill out Intake form at <a href="https://safevoices.org/get-help/certified-domestic-violence-intervention-program/">https://safevoices.org/get-help/certified-domestic-violence-intervention-program/</a>
<b>Aroostook</b>		
<b>Northern New England Community Resource Center (Male Program)</b>  Director: Charles Moody  P.O. Box 164  Houlton, ME 04730  (207) 694-3066  (Certified until 5/4/2026)	Monday, 6:00 p.m. to 7:30 p.m.  Tuesday, 6:00 p.m. to 7:30 p.m.  Wednesday, 6:00 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. Online Virtual classes 6:00 p.m. to 7:30 p.m.  Thursday, 6:00 p.m. to 7:30 p.m.	Chamber of Commerce, Presque Isle, ME  Caribou Historical Society, Caribou, ME  Houlton Regional Hospital  Caribou Historical Society, Caribou, ME
<b>Choices (Female Program)</b>  Director: Desiree Albert  Contact: (207) 764-2977  (Certified until 9/9/2026)	Call for information	Online
<b>Cumberland</b>		
<b>A Different Choice (Male Program)</b>  Director: Matthew Perry	Monday 4:00 - 5:30 p.m. & 6:00 - 7:30 p.m.  Wednesday 4:00 p.m. - 5:30 p.m. &	All classes held in person at: 655 Riverside Street, Portland. Please call Matthew Perry at (207) 233-5997 to enroll in the program.

<p>P.O. Box 704 Portland, ME 04104 (207) 233-5997 (Certified until 7/11/2027)</p>	<p>6:00 p.m. - 7:30 p.m. Thursday 5:30 p.m. - 7:00 p.m. Friday 8:30 a.m. - 10:00 a.m.</p>	
<b>Franklin</b>		
<p><b>Alternatives to Abuse (Safe Voices)</b> (Male Program) Director: Zach Griffith P.O. Box 713 Auburn, ME 04212 (207) 207-212-6827 zgriffith@safevoices.org (Certified until 9/14/2027)</p>	<p><b>Please come fill out the Intake form to learn more</b></p>	<p><b>To Enroll in class, please fill out Intake form at <a href="https://safevoices.org/get-help/certified-batterer-intervention-program">https://safevoices.org/get-help/certified-batterer-intervention-program</a></b></p>
<b>Hancock</b>		
<p><b>Choice V (Male Program)</b> Supervisor: Astor Gillis 59 Franklin St., B Ellsworth, ME 04605 (207) 667-2730 (Certified until 12/15/2027)</p>	<p>Tuesday, 5:00 p.m. to 6:30 p.m.</p>	<p>Online</p>
<p><b>Step Forward, Leaving Violence Behind (Male Program)</b> Director: Missy Fairfield P.O. Box 1466 Ellsworth, ME 04605 (207) 255-4934 (Certified until 12/10/2027)</p>	<p>Tuesdays, 5:00 p.m. to 6:30 p.m.</p>	<p>18 High Street, Ellsworth</p>

<p><b>DV Turning Points (Female Program)</b></p> <p>Supervisor: Astor Gillis</p> <p>59 Franklin St., B Ellsworth, ME 04605</p> <p>(207) 667-2730</p> <p>(Certified until 02/22/2026)</p>	<p>Wednesday, 10:00 a.m. to 11:30 a.m.</p>	<p>Online</p>
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**Kennebec**

**Knox**

<p><b>DV Classes for Men (Male Program)</b></p> <p>Temporary Director: Aimee Kerrigan</p> <p>262 Harlow Street Bangor, ME 04401</p> <p>(207) 802-3037</p> <p>(207) 973-3699 (fax)</p> <p>For intake call (207) 802-3037</p> <p>(Certified until 10/27/2026)</p> <p>*For class information and to schedule an intake call: Samantha Bragdon (207) 802-3037.</p>	<p>Monday, 5:15 p.m. - 6:45 p.m.</p> <p>Tuesday, 9:00 a.m. - 10:30 a.m., 11:30 a.m. - 1:00 p.m. &amp; 6:30 p.m. - 8:00 p.m.</p> <p>Wednesday, 6:30 p.m. - 8:00 p.m.</p> <p>Thursday, 4:30 p.m. - 6:00 p.m. and 6:30 p.m. - 8:00 p.m.</p>	<p>262 Harlow Street, Bangor, ME 04401</p> <p>And</p> <p>50 North Street, Dover- Foxcroft, ME 04426.</p>
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**Oxford**

<p><b>Alternatives to Abuse (Safe Voices)</b></p> <p>(Male Program)</p> <p>Director: Zach Griffith</p> <p>P.O. Box 713 Auburn, ME 04212</p>	<p>Please come fill out the Intake form to learn more</p>	<p>To Enroll in class, please fill out Intake form at <a href="https://safevoices.org/get-help/certified-batterer-intervention-program">https://safevoices.org/get-help/certified-batterer-intervention-program</a></p>
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(207) 207-212-6827 zgriffith@safevoices.org (Certified until 9/14/2027)		
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**Penobscot**

<b>DV Classes for Men (Male Program)</b>  Director: Aimee Kerrigan  262 Harlow Street  Bangor, ME 04401  (207) 802-3037  (207) 973-3699 (fax)  For intake call (207) 802-3037  (Certified until 10/27/2026)  *For class information and to schedule an intake call Samantha Bragdon (207) 802-3037.	Monday, 5:15 p.m. - 6:45 p.m.  Tuesday, 9:00 a.m. - 10:30 a.m., 11:30 a.m. - 1:00 p.m. & 6:30 p.m. - 8:00 p.m.  Wednesday, 6:30 p.m. - 8:00 p.m. and 6:30 p.m. - 8:00 p.m.  Thursday, 4:30 p.m. - 6:00 p.m. and 6:30 p.m. - 8:00 p.m.	Penquis  262 Harlowe Street  Bangor, ME  262 Harlow Street, Bangor, ME 04401  And  50 North Street, Dover- Foxcroft, ME 04426.
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**Piscataquis**

<b>DV Classes for Men (Male Program)</b>  Director: Aimee Kerrigan  262 Harlow Street  Bangor, ME 04  (207) 802-3037  (207) 973-3699 (fax)  For intake call (207) 802-3037  (Certified until 10/27/2026)  *For class information and to schedule an intake call: Samantha Bragdon (207) 802-3037.	Monday, 5:15 p.m. - 6:45 p.m.  Tuesday, 9:00 a.m. - 10:30 a.m., 11:30 a.m. - 1:00 p.m. & 6:30 p.m. - 8:00 p.m.  Wednesday, 6:30 p.m. - 8:00 p.m.  Thursday, 4:30 p.m. - 6:00 p.m. and 6:30 p.m. - 8:00 p.m.	Penquis  262 Harlow Street  Bangor, ME  262 Harlow Street, Bangor, ME 04401  And  50 North Street, Dover- Foxcroft, ME 04426.
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\*For class information and to schedule an intake call:  
Samantha Bragdon (207) 802-3037.

**Washington**

**Step Forward, Leaving Violence Behind (Male Program)**

Director: Missy Fairfield

P.O. Box 1466

Ellsworth, ME 04605

(207) 255-4934

(Certified until: 12/10/2027)

Tuesday, 5:00 p.m. – 6:30 p.m.

53 Prescott Drive, Machias

**DV Turning Points (Female Program)**

Supervisor: Astor Gillis

59 Franklin St., B

Ellsworth, ME 04605

(207) 667-2730

(Certified until 02/22/2026)

Wednesday, 10:00 a.m. – 11:30 a.m.

Online

**York**

**York County CDVIP (Male Program)**

Director: Anna Dullea

P.O. Box 590

Sandford, ME 04073

(207) 490-3227

(Certified until: 11/7/2026)

Monday, 6:00 p.m.  
Tuesday, 6:00 p.m.

To begin enrollment process, please fill out the intake form at: <https://www.caring-unlimited.org/yc-cdvp>

We offer both in-person and virtual options.

# ATTACHMENT C



**MCEDV.**

The Maine Coalition  
to End Domestic Violence

## 2025 Status Report on Certified Domestic Violence Intervention Programs (CDVIP)

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### Overview

Maine’s Certified Domestic Violence Intervention Programs help make Maine safe, respectful, and free – for survivors, their children, and our communities. CDVIP staff commit their time and energy to creating opportunities for positive change week after week with people who have harmed those closest to them. Each week in Maine, there are over 40 CDVIP classes convened by the nine programs for men and three programs for women. Annual enrollment in CDVIP hovers around 1,100 men and about 90 women. Most participants attend as part of the conditions imposed on them through probation, deferred disposition, or child protective services.

In 2025, the Maine Coalition to End Domestic Violence (MCEDV) and the Maine Department of Corrections (MDOC) continued their collaborative efforts to support the work of Maine’s Certified Domestic Violence Intervention Programs (CDVIPs) toward victim safety, offender accountability, and a consistent coordinated community response statewide. Maine’s 130<sup>th</sup> legislature appropriated continued and increased limited funds to support the statewide coordination, training, and technical assistance, including the partial

reimbursement of reduced fees for very low-income participants in CDVIP. This funding is now included in the Maine DOC budget, and MCEDV is grateful for the MDOC's partnership and support. Additional funding was sought during the 132<sup>nd</sup> legislative session, and that bill, sponsored by Senator Drew Gattine, was carried over to the second session after receiving bipartisan support for a funding increase (12-1) from the Criminal Justice and Public Safety Committee.

For the first time, Maine has been awarded federal funds to support statewide access to CDVIP in the form of an *Improving Criminal Justice Response* grant from the Office of Violence Against Women. This three-year grant will provide a modest amount of operational support for the work of eight of Maine's CDVIPs with a small amount of administrative funding for both the MDOC and MCEDV. MDOC is the lead partner for these funds, working in close collaboration with MCEDV. Grant implementation is delayed by the federal budget approval process, staffing reductions, and the government shutdown. MDOC and MCEDV have worked together to follow all requirements. Implementation is expected in early 2026. MCEDV is grateful for the ongoing leadership and collaborative approach of the MDOC, with appreciation for the efforts of Tessa Mosher, Director of Victim Services, and Sonja Charest, Manager of Juvenile Evidence-Based Programs and Grants.

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*Maine Survivor, 2024:*

*This last time I got divorce papers and was ready to fill them out, but since he's been in class, things have really drastically changed for the better. He has learned how many other participants have lost their partners due to their behavior, and that has really changed things for him. His actions are finally lining up with his words.*

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## Highlights

### **Statewide availability of CDVIP has been restored.**

- Caring Unlimited runs a CDVIP in York County.
- Partnership Circles is newly certified to serve Sagadahoc and Lincoln counties.
- CDVIPs statewide continue to collaborate to ensure timely enrollment and access to programming.

### **Maine CDVIP staff are well-trained and well-supported experts in domestic abuse intervention.**

- MCEDV provided 18 hours of advanced training opportunities to Maine's CDVIP staff in addition to foundational training in nationally recognized curricular models.

- Statewide, CDVIP staff are all trained in the same curricular models for the population served, providing consistent programming.
- MCEDV responded to over 150 technical assistance needs related to CDVIP, totaling over 185 hours.

**Maine shows continued commitment to a safe and responsible Coordinated Community Response to domestic abuse that centers victim safety and offender accountability.**

- Maine’s CDVIP Network meets monthly to identify emerging trends, strategize responses, and coordinate efforts.
- Maine’s victim advocacy organizations and community partners see CDVIP as an essential service that benefits victims, children, and communities.

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*Coordinated Community Response, 2025:  
CDVIP facilitators shared information with victim advocates about location and risks so that the victim could accurately plan for safety with support from DVRC advocates. Facilitators helped name his abusive actions, and the participant was arrested for his ongoing abuse.*

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## Statewide Coordination and Technical Assistance

### CDVIP Network Status

Maine’s CDVIPs, alongside MCEDV and MDOC, have created a strong, collaborative network across the state. Maine is well situated in its intervention work when compared to other states. Maine’s investment in statewide coordination, training, and technical assistance is exemplified by:

- *Connection to Victim Advocacy:* Maine’s standards require ongoing collaboration and connection to victim advocacy efforts, whether housed in the same organization or at a local partner. This directive, combined with the investment in statewide coordination, has led to a significant shift in how Maine’s Domestic Violence Resource Centers (DVRCs) understand the work of CDVIP. In fact, DVRCs operate half of Maine’s CDVIPs. MCEDV, with full membership support, opened coalition membership to Maine’s CDVIPs. More than ever before, intervention programming with people who have been abusive is understood as a core service that benefits survivors and their children. Advocates and interventionists are connected to one another through monitoring, shared training opportunities, Coordinated Community Response efforts, and shared employers. It is increasingly common to hear that

CDVIP staff reach out to peers in other CDVIPs and advocates at DVRCs to solve problems, consider consequences, and make programming choices.

- *Cooperation:* Each CDVIP serves a distinct area and population, and any exception requires consultation with other programs, DVRCs, MCEDV, and MDOC before the issuance of a waiver to allow it. This ensures that CDVIPs can focus on running their programs safely, responsibly, and well instead of trying to compete with their peers in other programs for greater enrollment. In other states, competition for enrollment makes things worse for survivors and plays into the aims of partners who are abusive; providers report that competing programs offer greater leniency, less rigorous content, and inconsistent approaches. Despite the continued reliance on participant fees for operational costs and the consistent shortage of adequate financial resources, the Maine CDVIP Network has resisted this. Maine certification standards require that any new CDVIP demonstrate the need for their program in the proposed area.
- *Standards, Oversight, and Statutory Framework:* Not all states have certification or practice standards for domestic violence intervention programming, and not all states that have standards have oversight to promote compliance with those standards. Maine has both. Even fewer states have statutory language that reinforces domestic violence intervention work. Maine has this in several ways: 1) state statute recognizes CDVIP as “the most appropriate and effective community-based intervention in cases involving domestic abuse<sup>1</sup>,” 2) courts are required to note on record when CDVIP is <sup>1</sup> ordered in such cases<sup>2</sup>; 3) certification standards are closely aligned with statutory definitions of domestic abuse<sup>3</sup>; and 4) state statute supports appropriate information-sharing with CDVIPs to facilitate victim safety and notification<sup>4</sup>. Accurate reporting of sentencing, including when CDVIP is not ordered, is essential to understanding Maine’s response to domestic abuse. Use of these reporting forms declined this year, and MCEDV hopes that Maine’s court systems will ensure that these forms are used consistently statewide as they are currently the only means of tracking these instances. This statutory support is further strengthened by the cooperative relationship between MCEDV, MDOC, and the network of CDVIP providers. CDVIP providers receive help from monthly network meetings hosted by MCEDV and attended by MDOC, annual site visits by MCEDV to ensure administrative compliance to standards, annual class observations by MCEDV

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<sup>1</sup> M.S.R.S. Title 17-A: MAINE CRIMINAL CODE, Part 6: PUNISHMENTS, Chapter 67: CONDITIONAL RELEASE, Subchapter 1: PROBATION § 1807. Conditions of Probation, 4: <https://legislature.maine.gov/legis/statutes/17-A/title17-Asec1807.html>

<sup>2</sup> M.S.R.S. Title 19-A: Domestic Relations, Part 4: PROTECTION FROM ABUSE, Chapter 103: PROTECTION FROM ABUSE § 4102. Definitions: <https://legislature.maine.gov/statutes/19-a/title19-Asec4102.html>

<sup>3</sup> M.S.R.S. Title 19-A: Domestic Relations, Part 4: PROTECTION FROM ABUSE, Chapter 103: PROTECTION FROM ABUSE § 4116. Certification of Domestic Violence Intervention Programs, 2: <https://legislature.maine.gov/statutes/19-a/title19-Asec4116.html>

to ensure curricular fidelity and programmatic compliance to standards, and quarterly class observations by the partnering DVRC.

- *Centering Survivors for Program Improvement:* The people best equipped to evaluate the effectiveness of abuse intervention are the people who have experienced the abuse. The results of Maine’s periodic outreach to survivors whose partners have been mandated CDVIP, completed in both 2020 and 2024, provide essential feedback about the risks, opportunities, and rewards of participation in CDVIP. Without state-level coordination and strong relationships between advocates and interventionists, this could not be done. When participants enroll in CDVIP, partner contact information is shared with the local DVRC so that individual connections for services and safety can be made. Advocates also reach out to explore the impact of CDVIP on survivors’ lives through the Survivor Impact Survey to more fully understand the impact on a collective level. MCEDV is aware of no other state that makes this type of concerted effort to reach partners of CDVIP participants for this kind of program evaluation. MCEDV continues to work with MDOC to strengthen program evaluation of Maine’s CDVIP efforts. Unlike many other kinds of programming, recidivism and pre/post-tests by participants provide limited evaluative data because not all acts of domestic abuse rise to the attention of the criminal legal system and the self-report of CDVIP participants is not a sufficiently reliable measure of behavior change because of the tendency for minimization, denial, and blame-shifting.

There is plenty of work still to do in ending domestic abuse in Maine, and Maine’s CDVIP Network has made significant strides to ensure that people who have caused this form of harm have the chance to change for the better – or, failing that, to allow those they have victimized to see their refusal to do so and ensure that systems will act to protect those victims.

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*Maine Survivor, 2024:*

*I was notified that he was in CDVIP by mail. I remember feeling so relieved because I at least knew where he would be during those hours. We used to live on the same street at the time of this and I was terrified because I never knew when he could be driving by my house. It made me feel safer to know that during those hours, I did not need to look over my shoulder.*

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## Women's CDVIP

Maine has three CDVIPs for women currently in operation: DV Turning Points in Hancock County, Respect ME in Kennebec and Somerset Counties, and Choices in Aroostook County. All classes for women are being offered by videoconference to meet the statewide need. Some programs opted not to seek recertification due to low enrollment and the ability of other programs in the state to absorb the few participants that need these services.

MCEDV observes that Maine continues to see low rates of referrals of women to CDVIP, which is appropriate, given that the context in which most women's use of force occurs is distinctly different from that of men's use of force. Most women who use force against their intimate partners do so in the face of coercive controlling violence used against them. This violence, known as responsive violence, is distinct from battering, which is the behavior that men's CDVIP is designed to address. Responsive violence lacks the patterned, fear-inducing nature of battering. Women's CDVIP curricula examines participants' use of force as well as the abuse and violence used against them with an aim to end both. While people with low incomes are over-represented in all CDVIPs, this is particularly true for women. Of the CDVIPs for women that assess participant income, 80 to 90% are consistently eligible for reduced fees, meaning that they subsist at or below 138% of Federal Poverty Levels (\$36,777 annually for a household of 3 in 2025).<sup>4</sup> One program noted that nearly 10% (5 of 55 participants) were unhoused during their enrollment.

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*CDVIP Director, 2025 Data Report:  
Two women [were arrested] for new DV charges and went to jail [and] had their charges dismissed. In speaking with one Probation Officer, it was acknowledged that her partner was using the legal system to try and control her.*

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MCEDV recognizes the work of Kennebec Behavioral Health's Prevention and Risk Reduction Services Director, Robert Rogers, who encouraged inclusion of women's CDVIP participants in their brain injury screening program and shared data related to those findings in his annual report to MDOC. All CDVIP participants at Respect ME are offered the opportunity to take part, and 38 of 55 (69%) enrolled participants were either pre-screened or completed the full screening. The results of these screenings emphasize the importance of contextualized programming for CDVIP that accounts for both women's use of force and their experience of coercive controlling violence from their partners. Of the participants who were screened:

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<sup>4</sup> 2025 Poverty Guidelines: 48 Contiguous States; Office of the Assistant Secretary for Planning and Evaluation, U.S. Department of Health and Human Services.

<https://aspe.hhs.gov/sites/default/files/documents/dd73d4f00d8a819d10b2fdb70d254f7b/detailed-guidelines-2025.pdf>

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- 13 had a Positive OBISS (On-line Brain Injury Screening and Support System) screen or medical diagnosis of brain injury;
- 3 had a Negative OBISS screen despite being strangled; and
- 12 had a Positive “Pre-Screen” which means they experienced a drug overdose, strangulation, or head trauma with loss of consciousness but opted not to complete the full screening.

While full details on the women’s experiences are not available, MCEDV notes that strangulation, coerced or forced substance use, and physical violence are common tactics of coercive controlling violence, which most women in CDVIP are subject to from their partners. Strangulation is a strong indicator of increased lethality risk, and Kennebec Behavioral Health has made an important and valuable investment in mitigating these dangerous circumstances.

### Men’s CDVIP

**Men’s CDVIP is now available in all 16 counties of the state.** There had been gaps in prior years in York and four midcoastal counties. Maine has nine CDVIPs for men currently in operation. Caring Unlimited just marked the first full year of running a new CDVIP in York County. Penquis expanded coverage to include Knox and Waldo counties which left Sagadahoc and Lincoln as the remaining areas without CDVIP. In November 2025, Courtney O’Brien and Charlie Cook created a new organization, Partnership Circles, to fill that gap, and they are currently accepting referrals. O’Brien and Cook are experienced CDVIP educators who have been engaged by the authors of the curriculum used by Maine CDVIPs as consultants for curricular updates and by MCEDV for facilitation training.

The new programs adhere to the same curricular model as other CDVIP staff, resulting in greater consistency among programs and reducing the utility of “program shopping” by participants looking to shirk meaningful accountability. Maine is unique nationally in its commitment to training intervention staff in the same models statewide.

### Reduced Fee Reimbursement

MCEDV receives \$287,500 annually from the MDOC to support work with Maine’s CDVIPs. Over two-thirds of that, \$200,000, is allocated to partial reimbursement of reduced fees for indigent CDVIP participants. These funds consistently run out after nine months of each fiscal year, leaving CDVIPs with the choice to either: 1) find more money in a time of scarce resources; 2) absorb costs into their already tight budgets; or 3) charge participants fees they know they cannot afford. None of these are good options, and they affect a substantial number of CDVIP participants statewide. Between 30 and 35 percent of male CDVIP participants are eligible for reduced fees, while roughly 90 percent of female CDVIP participants are indigent. The ripple effects of these levels of poverty and the shortfall of these funds create greater precarity for CDVIP programs, participants, and the survivors and

children connected to them. The current reduced fee reimbursement model is administratively burdensome for MCEDV and CDVIPs, and funds are consistently spent well before the close of each fiscal year. A more streamlined approach that assigns a proportional amount of funding for each CDVIP per month would reduce administrative burden and would give CDVIPs predictable and consistent funding from which to plan.

### **Technical Assistance**

MCEDV provides technical assistance to Maine's CDVIPs, DVRCs, state agencies, and community partners. Maine's work in domestic abuse intervention has gained national recognition and attention, and MCEDV shares the state's collective knowledge through participation in national professional networks, including the National Network of Abuse Intervention Providers. MCEDV engaged in 155 instances of technical assistance related to CDVIP, providing a total of 188.75 hours to CDVIPs, DVRCs, and others to ensure safe and responsible intervention in cases of domestic abuse.

### **Site Visits and Monitoring**

MCEDV visits, either in person or virtually, each CDVIP annually to observe classes and support compliance with certification standards. All class monitoring reports are shared with CDVIP, the partnering DVRC, and MDOC.

During 2025, MCEDV began revising the CDVIP Monitoring Form and developing guidance for CDVIP monitors. Opportunities for input from the CDVIP Network were provided at monthly CDVIP Network meetings and through follow-up email notices.

### **Statewide Coordinated Community Response**

#### **Ongoing Needs Assessment**

As part of MCEDV's monthly CDVIP Network meetings, the Network is invited to share emerging trends and patterns related to victim safety and offender accountability. In addition, each CDVIP reports monthly to MCEDV the activities related to Coordinated Community Response in which they engage, and both programmatic and community needs are addressed at annual site visits with each CDVIP by MCEDV. These avenues of communication and the strong relationships between MCEDV, MDOC, and Maine's CDVIPs allow for short-term problem-solving as well as the ability to track needs and trends over time. This has supported MCEDV's engagement with a variety of systems partners to improve practices so that victims' safety and offender accountability are consistently centered in our state's responses to domestic abuse and violence.

#### **Judicial Monitoring and Specialty Courts**

MCEDV's Prevention and Intervention Director took part in a workgroup of the Maine Commission on Domestic and Sexual Abuse that focused on best practice recommendations

for Judicial Monitoring. The workgroup also updated the Commission's 2021 recommendations about specialty courts<sup>5</sup>.

MCEDV's regular convening of the CDVIP Network revealed concerns about attention to victim rights, notification, and safety in specialty court practice. MCEDV was able to connect with the systems and people involved to draw attention and begin strategizing solutions before more harm came to victims.

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*Safe Voices Alternatives to Abuse CDVIP – March 2025:  
DV court proved to be something of a highlight for the month. The judge, DA's office, DHHS and Parole Office representatives all commented on the successes of our program. In summary, they commented on the overall improvement in behavior of the participants while in court, an increase in participation in the court process, more participants sharing the things they'd learned in the class as well as holding themselves to a higher level of accountability when it was their turn to stand before the judge than she'd historically seen.*

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### Referrals to CDVIP from Child Protective Services

MCEDV's Prevention and Intervention Director and Family Services Director worked with leadership staff at the Maine Department of Health and Human Services Office of Children and Family Services (DHHS OCFS) to update and implement policies and practices in cases with domestic abuse. This included efforts related to Maine's CDVIPs. MCEDV staff met with DHHS leadership to partner in the development and implementation of policies and practices that center the safety of both child and adult victims, encourage accountability of the person engaging in abusive behaviors, and aim to strengthen the ability of non-offending parents to develop and maintain safe, nurturing relationships with their child(ren). As part of this effort, MCEDV developed guidance for both DHHS OCFS Child Protective Service (CPS) workers and CDVIP staff to ensure shared expectations and effective collaboration. DHHS agreed to authorize payment for the full course of CDVIP for parents referred by them at a consistent rate for intake and classes statewide. OCFS then worked with MCEDV to register all CDVIPs as vendors in their system to reduce delays in payment

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<sup>5</sup> Specialty dockets include Maine's treatment courts that focus on criminal legal system involvement connected to substance use ("drug court" and veterans court, for example) to which domestic abuse cases are sometimes referred. There are also DV-specific specialty courts, often referred to as "DV court" or "judicial monitoring" in which a multi-disciplinary team, including CDVIP, provides ongoing oversight of defendant compliance.

and to avoid problems with payment compliance for participants. MCEDV has helped train both OCFS and CDVIP staff on the new policy and has been available for problem-solving to both CDVIP and OCFS staff throughout implementation.

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*Maine Survivor, 2024:*

*I encountered someone in public with a black eye; they told me their husband had done that to them. I was able to refer them to where they could get help because of my partner going to CDVIP.*

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### Out-of-State Programs

During gaps in statewide coverage, Maine programs were beyond capacity due to high enrollment rates in their respective areas. Courts and Prosecutors faced a challenge to follow the Maine statutes that require referral to CDVIP in domestic violence cases, because there was no local program. As a temporary measure, some defendants attended DV intervention programs in neighboring New Hampshire. New Hampshire programs are governed by a separate set of standards, and Maine's standards prohibit out-of-state programs from certification in Maine. When a New Hampshire program reached out to the York County District Attorney's office about certification, the District Attorney consulted the Maine Prosecutors' Association (MPA). The MPA then connected with MCEDV to formulate the right response. This query provided an opportunity to engage MCEDV, MDOC, the local York County CDVIP, and local systems partners in clarifying Maine's standards and their intent, reinforcing the importance of a coordinated community response, and raising awareness of systems partners that there are CDVIPs in every county in Maine ready to receive referrals.

### Training

MCEDV provides all required training at no cost to Maine's CDVIPs to help their compliance with the educational requirements of the certification standards. MCEDV continues the practice of reimbursing the registration costs for new CDVIP staff to attend either the *Domestic Violence Turning Points: A Non-Violence Curriculum for Women* or *Creating a Process of Change for Men Who Batter* foundational curriculum trainings. Both courses are offered virtually several times per year. This practice has afforded significant flexibility and cost-savings compared to offering in-person foundational training annually.

In addition to the foundational training required by the standards, CDVIP staff must attend six hours of continuing education annually. MCEDV reimburses travel expenses for in-person CDVIP training. Whenever possible, MCEDV invites key community partners, such as probation officers, to join training events.

### Foundational Training

All CDVIP staff are required to be trained in a nationally recognized curricular model, and MCEDV currently supports training in *Creating a Process of Change for Men Who Batter* (male CDVIP) and *DV Turning Points* (female CDVIP), both of which were created as part of the Duluth Model of Coordinated Community Response. While each curriculum is contextualized for the population served, they share the same analysis and use many of the same tools for examining abusive actions and the beliefs that enable them.

### Advanced Facilitation for Educators in Men's CDVIP

Courtney O'Brien and Charlie Cook taught a series of three, two-hour virtual sessions that culminated in a full-day, in-person session at the MCEDV office in Augusta, ME. This provided eighteen CDVIP educators with 10 hours of continuing education. Participants explored the beliefs and intentions that inform their choices in the classroom and how those choices affect the participants in class and how they treat their partners and children connected to them. MCEDV and attendees saw that this direct practice using "the Log," a cornerstone tool of the curriculum used by Maine CDVIPs for men, resulted in improvements in facilitation. This training built on prior efforts, including foundational training with the Domestic Abuse Intervention Project in Duluth, Minnesota and the Change Series with Ulester Douglas, Melissa Scaia, and Scott Miller, all of which were supported with funds from MDOC.

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*Advanced Facilitation for Men's CDVIP Attendee, 2025:  
Who is our client? Who are we serving? If it is survivors, then we  
should focus on the coercive controlling behaviors they are  
experiencing and the beliefs that support that.*

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### Healing and Repair Through the Lens of Systems-Involved Women

Dr. Lisa Young Larance, author of [Broken: Women's Stories of Intimate and Institutional Harm and Repair](#), joined twenty-two women's CDVIP staff, probation officers, and advocates working with systems-involved women, to explore what is needed to effectively respond to their complex needs and circumstances. This training series included a single full-day training course in August 2025 at MCEDV's Augusta office, followed by two one-hour virtual sessions, providing a total of 8 continuing education hours. This training series built upon prior training efforts, like the Systems Advocacy Learning Lab with Melissa Scaia and Amanda McCormick, made possible by funding from MDOC.

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*Healing and Repair Participant, 2025:*

*This is the first training I have completed that I felt was helpful in regard to my [specific] role. I would love to have more system response specific trainings.*

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### Spotlight on Solutions: BISC-MI Annual Conference

The Battering Intervention Services Coalition of Michigan offers an annual conference that has become the go-to professional development event for interventionists in the United States. In 2025, MCEDV continued its practice of reimbursing registration costs for CDVIP staff on a request basis. MCEDV was proud to support the attendance of 4 CDVIP staff members in addition to MCEDV's Prevention and Intervention Director.

### Training Plans for 2026

With just \$25,000 to support CDVIP training each year, MCEDV strives to make the greatest possible impact with the funds available. In 2026, MCEDV plans to offer another *Advanced Facilitation* series for staff of men's CDVIPs.

In the fall of 2026, the Battering Intervention Services Coalition of Michigan (BISC-MI) will host their 30<sup>th</sup> annual conference, and MCEDV plans to support a significant number of Maine CDVIP staff from both men's and women's programs to attend by reimbursing the registration cost which is the same for in-person and virtual attendance. Unless added funds are secured, MCEDV will allocate funds to cover registration costs, and CDVIPs may choose to cover travel expenses for in-person attendance at their discretion.

### Financial Status and Forecast

Maine's CDVIPs operate on shoestring budgets and continue to rely primarily on participant fees for operational costs. Programs are piecing together the resources to house, staff, and sustain this high-stakes, complex work that keeps Maine safer. This is unsustainable long-term. The cost of CDVIP compared to other carceral response options is miniscule, but Maine has not yet made the full investment needed, despite consistent bipartisan support for the work and its importance to Maine's public health and safety.

MCEDV receives \$287,500 annually from MDOC to support Maine's CDVIP Network, and those funds are distributed as follows:

- \$200,000 – partial reduced fee reimbursement for indigent participants (these funds are consistently spent prior to the end of each fiscal year, resulting in a shortfall for programs statewide)
- \$25,000 – training to meet certification requirements for CDVIP staff
- \$62,500 – MCEDV administrative costs

The federal funding awarded as part of the *Improving Criminal Justice Response* grant from the Office of Violence against Women will provide roughly \$30,000 to each participating CDVIP for three years. Implementation of these funds currently awaits federal approval of the project’s budget and programming information.

## Summary of MDOC-MCEDV Contract Deliverables

Deliverable	Status
Collaborate with the DOC in monitoring compliance with Maine’s DVIP Certification Standards	Ongoing through annual class observation, administrative site visits, review of waiver requests, and monthly CDVIP network meetings. Ongoing projects include the finalization of guidance for CDVIP monitors and recommended criteria for the choice of CDVIP monitors.
Reduced Fee Eligibility and Administration of Partial Reimbursement	Ongoing. Funding for reduced fee reimbursement regularly falls short before the end of each fiscal year, leaving a two-to-three-month shortfall. MCEDV updates the means testing instrument, reporting, billing, and instructions annually upon release of updated Federal Poverty Guidelines and distributes those updated documents to the CDVIP network. MCEDV has not had significant requests for mileage reimbursement. The primary mileage reimbursement provided to CDVIPs by MCEDV is related to travel costs for training.
Annual Report	MCEDV provides this annual report for each calendar year which MDOC submits with their report to the legislature.
Training: Reimbursement Requests, Needs Assessment, and Evaluation Data	MCEDV assesses training needs at monthly CDVIP Network meetings, class observations, and annual site visits. Training request and evaluation data is included in this report.
Technical Assistance and Statewide Coordination Activities	Ongoing through annual class observation, administrative site visits, review of waiver requests, and monthly CDVIP network meetings
Available Data about Recidivism	There continues to be insufficient investment in data collection and analysis for CDVIPs in Maine and nationally. The data that is available related to recidivism shows that Maine’s CDVIPs result in greater victim safety when participants attend and complete the programs. In the fall of 2024, MCEDV worked with the Maine Prosecutors Association to analyze available data about DV repeat offenders; that analysis is still under development.
Survivor Survey Results	MCEDV conducted its second Survivor Impact Survey in late summer 2024. Results from this show that CDVIPs are most effective when attended and completed. While full analysis and reporting of results is still underway, early interpretations of the data show that CDVIP may be most effective at reducing tactics like physical violence, threats, and intimidation and less effective at reducing tactics like emotional and verbal abuse.
Pre/post Test	MCEDV continues to explore options that exist for meaningful program evaluation, including pre/post testing. To further this goal, MCEDV has connected with researchers in Maine and nationally. There are significant limitations on the reliability of self-assessment by CDVIP participants. While cognitive gains about what constitutes abuse can be measured in this way, it is much more complex and potentially risky to assess ongoing belief and behavior change. MCEDV will continue to explore this area to decide the best

	possible combination of measures to assess the impact of CDVIP, particularly on the lives of DV survivors and their children.
Status of Compliance with Contract Agreement	Compliant.

## Recommendations

1. Continue to support a strong and consistent statewide Coordinated Community Response to domestic abuse through the collaboration between MDOC and MCEDV and existing funding.
2. Provide greater financial consistency and predictability for CDVIPs by restructuring existing partial fee reimbursement funds from a per-participant reimbursement model to a set proportional monthly rate for each CDVIP while keeping statewide commitment to access for indigent participants.
3. Fully fund the operational costs of Maine’s CDVIP network to include enhanced program evaluation, data collection, and data analysis of the impact of CDVIP on participants, their current and former partners, and their children.

## Conclusion

Maine is fortunate to have a skilled, resourceful, and dedicated network of interventionists, victim advocates, and community partners who work together to have a consistent, safe, and responsible approach to domestic abuse. This work has been strengthened by the modest investments that the State of Maine has made. Full operational funding for Maine’s statutorily recognized intervention is needed to ensure that gains continue to be made in the effort to end domestic abuse and violence in our state.

## For More Information

If you would like more information about MCEDV and Maine’s CDVIP Network, please reach out Karen Wyman, Director of Prevention & Intervention at [karen@mcedv.org](mailto:karen@mcedv.org).

# ATTACHMENT D

**STATEWIDE DOMESTIC VIOLENCE INTERVENTION PROGRAM MALE STATISTICS**

January 1, 2025 to December 31, 2025

**2025 Statewide Totals**

Number of men who were enrolled in the program	1249
Number of men who completed the program (48 weeks)	363
Number of men who left without completing the program (voluntarily, their choice)	52
Number of men who left without completing the program (discharged, expelled)	286
Number of men who re-offended due to a non-DV related incident and went to jail while attending	34
Number of men who re-offended due to a DV related incident and went to jail while attending	47
Number of men who completed but were required to attend again after completion	26
Number of referrals from MDOC probation	906
Number of referrals resulting from filings or condition of release	16
Number of referrals from DHHS	90
Number of protection from abuse referrals (PFA)	107
Number of self-referrals	22
Transfers from other Domestic Violence Intervention Programs	27
Number of other referrals	33
Number of deferred dispositions	218
Number of men with special needs	37
Number of men referred to another provider for mental health services	19
Number of men referred to another provides for substance abuse	18
Number of men referred to another provider for literacy services	0
Number of men referred to another provider for parenting services	10
Number of men referred to another provider for vocational services	0
Number of men referred to another provider for employment services	2
Number of men referred to another provider for financial services	0

# **ATTACHMENT E**

## STATEWIDE DOMESTIC VIOLENCE INTERVENTION PROGRAM FEMALE STATISTICS

January 1, 2025 to December 31, 2025

### 2025 Statewide Totals

Number of women who were enrolled in the program	88
Number of women who completed the program (48 weeks)	25
Number of women who left without completing the program (voluntarily, their choice)	11
Number of women who left without completing the program (discharged, expelled)	5
Number of women who re-offended due to a non-DV related incident and went to jail while attending	4
Number of women who re-offended due to a DV related incident and went to jail while attending	3
Number of women who completed but were required to attend again after completion	1
Number of referrals from MDOC probation	32
Number of referrals resulting from filings or condition of release	2
Number of referrals from DHHS	8
Number of protection from abuse referrals (PFA)	0
Number of self-referrals	3
Transfers from other Domestic Violence Intervention Programs	2
Number of other referrals	0
Number of deferred dispositions	43
Number of women with special needs	51
Number of women referred to another provider for mental health services	12
Number of women referred to another provides for substance abuse	6
Number of women referred to another provider for literacy services	0
Number of women referred to another provider for parenting services	0
Number of women referred to another provider for vocational services	0
Number of women referred to another provider for employment services	0
Number of women referred to another provider for financial services	5