

## **DOMESTIC VIOLENCE OFFENDER PROGRAM PROVIDER AGREEMENT**

This Provider Agreement must be reviewed, signed and notarized by professionals providing domestic violence offender programming to individuals or groups of individuals referred or mandated by the adult criminal court for a domestic violence crime. It is the intention of this agreement that all domestic violence offender services fully comply with any and all Judicial/Court and State of Connecticut standards and guidelines; and that any professional providing these services is qualified, trained, and appropriately supervised. These established standards are intended to serve as a framework for new and existing service providers to develop and deliver services to people arrested for committing a crime(s) of violence against a current or former intimate partner. Whenever possible and appropriate, community program providers working with participants need to identify ways to cooperate, collaborate and coordinate information and services with agencies assisting victims/survivors. The purpose of these services is to educate and teach skills to domestic violence offenders that support a non-violent lifestyle and promote healthy relationships. Offenders should be treated with respect and compassion and at the same time be held responsible for eliminating all violent and abusive behavior and supporting belief systems. The safety of the victim(s) and potential victims will always be paramount.

1. I understand that domestic violence is an incident and/or pattern of violent and/or abusive behaviors used by a person intended to exert power and control over another in the context of an intimate relationship. The violence which involves coercive control may take many forms including physical and psychological abuse, threats and intimidation as well as economic and emotional abuse. Although there may be contributing factors such as alcohol/substance use or mental health problems which make violence in the context of an intimate relationship even more complex, these factors are not the proximate cause. Domestic violence, as a learned behavior, is supported by a system of beliefs and attitudes and requires a variety of approaches to prevent, reduce, and eliminate it. Domestic violence offender programming emphasizes the accountability of individual perpetrators. The purpose is to educate participants and teach skills that support a non-violent lifestyle and promote healthy relationships.
2. I agree with and my work will support the following guiding principles. These principles are intended specifically for individuals arrested for committing a crime of domestic violence against an intimate or former intimate partner; however, these principles are universal and applicable to those who perpetrate any family violence offense.
  - a. Domestic violence is illegal and will be treated as a criminal act under the law.
  - b. The primary goals of domestic violence offender programs are the cessation of all forms of violence and abuse and the development of skills for safe, respectful, and healthy relationships.
  - c. The safety and rights of victims/survivors is of paramount importance and shall not be compromised for the preservation of a relationship or any other reason.
  - d. The autonomy and right to self-determination of victims/survivors will be respected and facilitated through both the sharing of program information and appropriate referrals to supportive, trauma-informed domestic violence services available in the community.
  - e. Perpetrators are solely responsible for their intentional choice to engage in violent, coercive, and/or abusive behavior and, through swift and immediate consequences, will be held accountable for their actions without displacing blame on the victim, alcohol or substance abuse, or physical or mental illness.
  - f. Program staff shall directly address offender efforts to deny, blame, minimize, justify and rationalize behavior.
  - g. Providers of services for domestic violence offenders will be responsible for ensuring interventions and the manner in which services are provided are the most effective for

facilitating change in an offender's behavior.

- h. Offenders are capable of changing their behaviors, attitudes, and beliefs and living a non-violent lifestyle; programs offer tools intended to foster each participant's potential to change. While providers are responsible for delivering services in the manner most effective for facilitating behavior change, a participant is ultimately responsible for choosing to change their behavior.
  - i. While providers are accountable to individual offenders in the manner detailed in the Domestic Violence Offender Program Standards, they are also expected to be accountable to victims and the wider community. Providers are responsible for attending to issues of victim safety, security, and rights to self-determination; consequences to secondary victims; and the impact on public safety and social justice in the community.
3. All individuals receiving domestic violence offender services must sign the Participant Agreement prior to engaging services; as appropriate and feasible I will ensure that each participant adheres to all requirements of the Participant Agreement.
  4. I understand that domestic violence offender services differ from the practice of counseling and/or psychotherapy; the relationship with the client/participant differs from the standard therapeutic relationship/alliance; and that many standards of counseling/psychotherapy practice, such as "Confidentiality" may not apply.
  5. I will directly and consistently address instances of denial, blaming, minimizing, justifying and rationalizing by offenders.
  6. I understand that my obligations are not just to the participant (i.e. client); my obligations extend to the victims and potential victim(s)/survivor(s).
  7. I understand that the safety of the victim(s) and potential victims will always be paramount; and I will act accordingly.
  8. I reaffirm the ethical guidelines and standards of practice of my profession and will only provide services for which I am specifically trained and qualified; specifically, I will only provide domestic violence offender services or counseling/psychotherapy intended to address issues of domestic violence with proper training and experience.
  9. I agree to seek appropriate supervision as necessary from a qualified supervisor or colleague with expertise in domestic violence offender services.
  10. I agree to follow best-practices in domestic violence offender services; and to stay informed of the same.
  11. I agree to refrain from all of the prohibited practices (as defined by these standards) when providing domestic violence offender services as well as any behavior or action that creates the appearance of a personal alliance with the offender (i.e. collusion) thus compromising the effectiveness of the program.
  12. I understand the importance of objectivity and that any collusion or alliance with the participant is not in keeping with ethical and best-practice standards, and may place the victim at risk. I agree to be vigilant about and avoid any collusion or alliance with the participant.
  13. I recognize that group sessions can be a potentially sympathetic environment for participants to reinforce one another's oppressive attitudes, behaviors, and actions against women and victims in particular. I will be mindful of this dangerous side effect occurring in group sessions and will develop and employ the skills necessary to address, eliminate and prevent this dynamic.

14. I agree to immediately notify all appropriate authorities (e.g. Probation Officer, Police Department, and Family Relations Officer) should I have any concerns regarding risk and potential harm to victims, others, and/or the participant.
15. I will adhere to all standards of “duty to warn” and mandated reporter requirements (e.g. Child Protective Services/CT DCF)
16. I attest to the following regarding my professional practice:
  - a. All licenses I hold are current, and there are no known reasons that they may be at risk of revocation or suspension.
  - b. I am in good standing with any and all professional organizations related to my professional practice.
  - c. I have and will continue to abide by the ethical guidelines of my professional discipline.
  - d. I am not aware of any actions against me for any ethical violations or malpractice.
  - e. I currently, and will continue to, maintain professional malpractice insurance appropriate to my scope of practice and with minimum limits generally considered adequate by professionals standards of practice
17. I agree to engage in regular and on-going professional supervision and training specific to domestic violence and the provision of services to offenders.
18. I agree to actively address input and feedback as appropriate from community and governmental agencies and/or service providers, particularly those working directly with victims/survivors of domestic violence.
19. I recognize and take responsibility for personal values and biases to ensure the respectful provision of services in a culturally-responsive and competent manner without discrimination.
20. Details about the agency’s grievance procedure will be provided at intake including information on how to make complaints in order to resolve problems or concerns about the services received. The procedures should inform participants of their right to file a formal complaint with the Department of Public Health (DPH) and/or the profession’s licensing Board regarding individual practitioners and/or facilities.
21. I will provide the referring court agency all information required for any actions, decisions, and/or hearings regarding sanctions, supervision/monitoring, dispositions, and protective and restraining orders. I agree to make timely reports all violations of the Participant Agreement in a manner consistent with the nature of the infraction.
22. I agree to furnish completely objective reports that are primarily focused on the goals of domestic violence offender services including: accountability, responsibility, changes in behavior and cognition; and the elimination/reduction of abusive beliefs and behaviors; and I will make any and all referrals deemed necessary.
23. I understand that if I do not comply in full with this agreement and/or if the participant does not comply fully with the terms of the Participant Agreement, the disposition of the case and/or any sanctions and/or supervision may be significantly impacted.

**DOMESTIC VIOLENCE OFFENDER PROGRAM PROVIDER AGREEMENT**

**I attest that I have read and will adhere to the Domestic Violence Offender Program Standards**

**Name of Provider:**

**Address of office location (s)**

**List of all current Licenses and Credentials of Provider**

- 1)
- 2)
- 3)
- 4)
- 5)
- 6)

**Signature of Provider:**

**Date:**

State of Connecticut

County of \_\_\_\_\_ ss.

On this the \_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, 20\_\_\_\_, before me, \_\_\_\_\_, the undersigned officer, personally appeared \_\_\_\_\_, known to me (or satisfactorily proven) to be the person whose name is subscribed to the within instrument and acknowledged that (he/she executed the same for the purposes therein contained.

In witness whereof I hereunto set my hand.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature of Notary Public

Date Commission Expires: \_\_\_\_\_

Printed Name of Notary: \_\_\_\_\_