



## MEMORANDUM

**DATE:** July 13, 2020

**FOR:** Indiana Certified Batterers' Intervention Programs

**FROM:** Indiana Coalition Against Domestic Violence, Inc. (ICADV)

**SUBJECT:** Available standard modifications and best practice considerations during the Coronavirus global pandemic.

**PURPOSE:** This memorandum explains the availability of modifications and best practices for the operation and compliance of a certified Batterers' Intervention Program in the State of Indiana. The modifications and best practices are designed to prevent the spread of the coronavirus (COVID-19) and facilitate continued assistance to household impacted by intimate partner violence.

**TERM:** This memorandum will remain in effect until further notice by ICADV.

**NOTIFICATION PROCESS:** Certified Batterers' Intervention Programs must acknowledge, sign, and return a copy of the memorandum to ICADV. Memorandum copies should be sent to Terri Noone at [tnoone@icadvinc.org](mailto:tnoone@icadvinc.org) and Jessica Marcum at [jmarcum@icadvinc.org](mailto:jmarcum@icadvinc.org).

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### Batterers Intervention Program Certification Standards: Modifications and Best Practices

#### 1.0 Administration and Personnel

##### 1.1. Principles of Practices (#14): BIPs will not compete for victim service funding.

**Modification:** BIPs are encouraged to apply for non-victim service funding to support the purchase of technology, supplies (PPE), and other items needed to reduce exposure to COVID-19 and conduct groups. Funding can also be used to support agency infrastructure, staffing, and participant dues. If funds are secured to offset participant dues, the agency's sliding scale fee structure must be adjusted to ensure funding is distributed equitably.

##### 1.2 Code of Ethics:

The standards, as written, remain in effect.

##### 1.3 Provider Educational, Training, and Certification Conditions:

**Modification:** ICADV will allow individuals in training to become a certified BIP facilitator to observe, facilitate, co-facilitate training session through a web-platform hosted by a certified BIP. The number of

group sessions and educational hours (CEU's) required for facilitator and senior facilitator status has not changed.

#### **1.4 Provider Continuing Education and Monitoring:**

**Modification (Monitoring Frequency):** ICADV is waiving the monitoring requirement for quarter two of 2020 (April-June). Many programs, both offender and victim service, elected to cancel groups, modify schedules, and change service delivery modalities during this time making monitoring extremely difficult. Any outstanding monitoring requirements from 2019 or quarter one of 2020 are still required. Any monitoring conducted during quarter two (April-June) will still be recorded toward compliance.

**Modification (Monitoring Method):** ICADV will allow web-platform monitoring sessions to be conducted by recognized monitors. ICADV created a Survey Monkey form for electronic submission of the monitoring reports. Advocate/monitors may not have easy access to a printer to print the form. The survey monkey monitoring form submission can be accessed here:

<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/XYCVTRL> .

Monitors must notify Caryn Burton [cburton@icadvinc.org](mailto:cburton@icadvinc.org) when they complete a report on Survey Monkey so she can download and send a PDF copy to the monitor, Jessica Marcum, and Terri Noone

**Continuing Education:** The standards, as written, remain in effect.

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**2.0. Offender Accountability:** While certainly not an excuse for using violence, navigating all aspects of life (employment, housing, transportation, sober living/recovery, systemic racism, interpersonal relationships, etc.) are more difficult now with the impacts of COVID-19. ICADV is encouraging programs to make reasonable modifications/alternatives to offender accountability that DO NOT jeopardize victim safety or program integrity.

#### **2.1. Confidentiality Notification:**

The standards, as written, remain in effect.

**Best Practices:** Programs are strongly encouraged to develop writeable PDF versions of all program materials and forms to send to participants electronically.

#### **2.2 Participant Contract:**

The standards, as written, remain in effect.

**Best Practices:** Programs are strongly encouraged to review their participant contracts and make necessary revisions to reflect changes to the program structure, rules, and expectations during the COVID-19 pandemic. Any changes to the participant contract should be uniform and predictable and so discrimination does not occur against any participant based on actual or perceived race, class, age, handicap, religion, educational attainment, ethnicity, national origin, sex, sexual orientation, or gender identity.

#### **2.3 Participant Expulsion:**

The standards, as written, remain in effect.

**Best Practice:** Programs are encouraged to review their expulsion policies and determine which aspects could disproportionately affect participants as a result of COVID-19. Programs should never allow

continued violence, threats, or intimidation; however, group rules, attendance policies, and payment requirements may need modified during the pandemic. Any changes to the participant expulsion policy should be uniform and predictable and so discrimination does not occur against any participant based on actual or perceived race, class, age, handicap, religion, educational attainment, ethnicity, national origin, sex, sexual orientation, or gender identity.

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### 3.0 Program Curriculum and Content

#### 3.1 Program Curriculum:

The standards, as written, remain in effect.

**Best Practice:** BIPs are encourage to use their discretion in discussing more current topics that could be negatively impacting the program participants. Topics include issues surrounding COVID-19, employment, housing, transportation, sober living/recovery, systemic racism, interpersonal relationships, etc.

#### 3.2 Program Structure and Content:

The standards, as written, remain in effect.

**Modification:** BIPs certified prior to April 1, 2020 are permitted to conduct BIP groups on a reliable and secure web-based platform (zoom, go to meeting, etc.). The BIP must agree to abide by the following best practices when conducting web-based groups.

- **Group Durations:** BIP web-platform groups should last no longer than 90 minutes and no less than 60 minutes.
- **Group Selection/Size:** BIPs must limit the number of participants in a web-based group to 10 individuals or less.
- **Technology Assessment and Orientation:** BIP's must allow for additional time at orientation to ensure the participant is comfortable with all of the web-based platform features.
- **Group Rules:** BIPs must continue to enforce existing groups rules and new rules specific to technology/web-based groups.

Examples include: No use of cell phone; bathroom breaks; etc.; web-cameras MUST stay on at all times.

Modification to group rules may allow for snacks; smoking tobacco; etc. as it has been shared nationwide that allowing more relaxed rules while in their personal spaces has led to increased participation and engagement during sessions.

- **Shared space:** BIPs should be vigilant that the survivor and/or children could be in a shared space when the participant is attending group. BIPs are strongly encouraged to request that participants to wear headphones to maintain the privacy of other individuals in the group and to minimize the trauma/triggers on the survivor/children.

- **Resources:** BIPs nationwide are navigating the change in service delivery from in-person groups to web-platform groups. Programs are encouraged to visit <https://www.work-with-perpetrators.eu/covid-19> for more information on global efforts.

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## 4.0 Victim Safety and Community Collaboration

### 4.1 Provider Monitoring

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### 4.2 Contact with Victims

The standards, as written, remain in effect.

**Best Practices:** BIPs are strongly encouraged to make contact with victim service providers in their community to gain a better understanding of how their services are operating during COVID-19. BIPs will be more informed to make proper referrals to survivors.

Victim advocates conducting routine contacts, on behalf of BIPs, should be mindful that the survivor may be around the perpetrator more now than prior to the COVID-19 protective measures were implemented. Advocates and BIPs should always ensure that the survivor is in a safe and comfortable place before engaging in conversation.

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### Acknowledgement:

As the signing official for \_\_\_\_\_, I acknowledge and will adhere to the available modifications and best practice considerations for Certified Batterers' Intervention programs during the Coronavirus global pandemic.

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Printed Name

Position

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Signature

Date