

Domestic Violence Perpetrator Intervention Program Standards

Alabama's Certification Process

Alabama Coalition Against Domestic Violence
P.O. Box 4762, Montgomery, AL 36101
334-832-4842
www.acadv.org

Revised February 2008

Effective Date: June 1, 2008

TABLE OF CONTENTS

SECTION ONE: CERTIFICATION STANDARDS PROCESS.....	PGS 3-9
EXEMPTION POLICY	PG 10
PHILOSOPHY AND PURPOSE	PG 10
PROGRAM PRINCIPLES	PG 10
PROGRAM PURPOSE	PG 10
PROGRAM GOALS..	PG 11
PROGRAM EDUCATIONAL APPROACHES.....	PGS 11-12
PROHIBITED EDUCATIONAL APPROACHES.....	PG 13
SUPPLEMENTAL TECHNIQUES.....	PG 14
VOLUNTARY ENROLLMENT.....	PG 14
ESSENTIAL ELEMENTS OF A PROGRAM.....	PG 15
LENGTH OF PROGRAM.....	PG 17
REQUIREMENTS FOR VICTIMS SAFETY.....	PG 18
VICTIM INVOLVEMENT	PG 18
PUBLIC RELATIONS EFFORTS.....	PG 19
AGENCY STRUCTURE.....	PG 19
PERSONNEL QUALIFICATIONS.....	PGS 19-20
REQUIREMENTS FOR PROGRAM FACILITATORS AND INTAKE ASSESSORS.....	PG 21
REQUIREMENTS FOR PROGRAM SUPERVISORS	PG 22
CONFLICT OF INTEREST.....	PG 23
PROMPTNESS OF CONTACTS.....	PG 24
ASSESSMENT PROCESS OF PERPETRATORS.....	PG 24
RISK ASSESSMENT.....	PG 25
CONFIDENTIALITY POLICIES.....	PG 26
VICTIM CONFIDENTIALITY.....	PG 27
CONFIDENTIALITY IN GROUP ACTIVITIES.....	PG 27
PROGRAM COMPLETION, TRANSFERS, DENIAL AND TERMINATION.....	PG 28
COMPLETION.....	PG 28
RESEARCH.....	PG 30

SECTION ONE CERTIFICATION STANDARDS PROCESS

I. WHEN PERPETRATOR INTERVENTION IS APPROPRIATE

These Standards establish minimum requirements for programs that serve as the primary intervention for adults who perpetrate violence in past or present intimate partnerships. These standards are not designed for programs that intervene with perpetrators of child abuse, elder abuse, sexual assault or violence that does not occur within the confines of an intimate partnership.

Any provider who offers intervention without being certified as having met these standards is in violation of Section 30-7-6, 1975 Code of Alabama.

Groups developed to provide services to persons who are primarily victims of domestic violence are exempt from these standards.

II. CERTIFICATION COMMITTEE

A Certification Committee will be established, hereafter referred to as the Committee, representative of the following agencies to monitor and make recommendations for revisions to these standards as necessary to the Alabama Coalition Against Domestic Violence:

The Alabama Coalition Against Domestic Violence shall have at least 51% representation on the certification committee. The Alabama Association of Violence Intervention Programs shall have a three-member representation. All other agencies will have one member representation on the committee.

- Alabama Coalition Against Domestic Violence (ACADV)
- Board of Pardons and Parole
- Administrative Office of Courts (AOC)
- Alabama Department of Mental Health and Mental Retardation
- Alabama Office of Prosecution Services
- Alabama Association of Violence Intervention Programs (AAVIP)

This Committee will serve as a monitoring and certification board and will contract with qualified evaluators who will conduct program evaluations. Qualifications for evaluators are established by the Certification Committee.

An agency or program may apply for certification by submitting an application to the Alabama Coalition Against Domestic Violence designated office.

III. APPLICATION PROCESS

Note: The Program is responsible for initiating the application process by contacting the Alabama Coalition Against Domestic Violence and requesting the Application Packet.

The steps of the application process are as follows and apply to programs applying for certification for the first time and to programs applying to renew their certification.

The Alabama Domestic Violence Perpetrator Program Certification Committee has the ultimate responsibility for certifying applicant programs. The Certification Committee meets quarterly.

Note Timeframe Calculations: Calendar day calculations do not include State Recognized Holidays. Postmark includes a traditional postal date stamp, a fax receipt date or email receipt date where applicable. The first date following the post mark date should be counted as the first date in determining the next required deadline.

1. Application Initial Review

- a. The application packet will be reviewed by ACADV for completeness
Timeframe: ACADV must determine whether an application is complete within 14 calendar days of the postmark of the application. A response to the applicant program shall be sent no later than 14 calendar days from the postmark date.
- b. The application packet must include: 1) the application form; 2) required supporting documentation; and 3) the current application fee.
- c. The supporting documentation must fulfill requirements as set forth in the certification application packet.
- d. Incomplete application packets will not be accepted, and will be returned, with the application fee, to the Program.
- e. When the application and supporting documentation are determined to be complete, the application fee is considered non-refundable and the application will be forwarded to an evaluator.

2. Application Review for Acceptance

The program evaluator will make a preliminary review of the application and supporting documentation to determine whether the information and items submitted are in compliance with the Certification Standards.

Timeframe: The evaluator should determine whether the application is accepted and provide notice to ACADV within 21 calendar days of the postmark of the complete application. ACADV will send notification to the applicant program and assist in scheduling a site visit, if applicable. Applicant programs will be notified of the status of the application within 7 days after the postmark of the acceptance notice form received from the evaluator.

The applicant program will be notified using a Notification Form. If the application is found to comply with standards, ACADV will arrange the site visit. Otherwise, the program will be notified of the discrepancies found.

Timeframe: After the Notification Form is sent to the applicant program, the applicant program must submit a completed Notification Form to ACADV within 7 calendar days of postmark of this Form. The site review will be held within 60 calendar days of the postmark of the Notification Form.

- a. If discrepancies are found, the Program must submit the corrected items to the evaluator within the allotted timeframe.
- b. Upon receipt of corrections, the Program evaluator will again review the application. If everything is found to be in compliance, ACADV will arrange the site visit.
- c. The Program will have only two opportunities within 120 days of post mark of the application to correct any discrepancies found.
- d. If all discrepancies with the Standards have not been corrected after two attempts: (1) the application will be declared void and returned to the Program; (2) the application fee will be retained by ACADV; and (3) the Program will be required to initiate a new application with all documentation and fees.

3. Site Visit

- a. A site visit will be scheduled and conducted within 60 calendar days of the postmark of the Notification Form.
- b. At the site visit, the Program will be evaluated for compliance with the Alabama Certification Standards for Domestic Violence Perpetrator Intervention Programs. *Evaluators at a minimum will review case files, review program logs, interview staff and observe a group in progress.*

4. Evaluators Report After Site Visit

The evaluator will send an initial report to ACADV outlining any violations of Standards and corrective action measures to be taken. ACADV will send a copy of the evaluator's report via certified mail to the program.

Timeframe: The copy of the report sent to ACADV should be postmarked within 10 calendar days of the site review. ACADV shall send a copy of the evaluator's report via certified mail to the program postmarked within 14 calendar days of the site visit.

5. Program's Response to Violations and Corrective Action

- a. Programs requiring corrective action will respond to ACADV with evidence of all corrective action taken.
- b. This evidence of corrective action must be provided within 60 calendar days after postmark of the evaluation report. If a program misses this 60 day deadline then the Certification Committee in its discretion will determine the corrective action needed to address the non-compliance issues. The applicant program should submit compliance documentation to ACADV within 60 calendar days of the postmark of the evaluator's report. ACADV will consultant with the evaluator to review the submitted information to ensure all compliance requirements are met. If the applicant program does NOT submit the compliance documentation, within the deadline, then the chair of the certification committee will be notified immediately. If the documentation provided by the program within the deadline does not meet the requirements of the evaluator or of the Certification Committee then the Committee may require additional corrective action measures before a decision regarding certification is made.

- c. The Committee may grant an extension of time if it deems that the corrective action cannot feasibly be accomplished within 60 calendar days. If the applicant program needs additional time then a request for an extension should be submitted to the ACADV office within 14 calendar days of the postmark of the evaluator's initial report.
- d. Such request shall state the Program's position regarding why corrective action cannot be completed within the 60 calendar days, include a summary of its efforts to complete the corrective action, and shall request a reasonable and specific timeframe within which the corrective action may be completed.
- e. The granting of an extension of time for corrective action will be at the sole discretion of the Committee, and will consider, among other things, the Program's efforts to complete the corrective action, as well as the specificity and timeliness of the Program's proposed implementation of the corrective action.

Timeframe: The Certification Committee will notify the applicant program regarding the request for an extension within 14 calendar days of the postmark of the applicant program's request. If an extension is granted then the evaluator shall submit a report to ACADV, via fax or email and the applicant program, via certified mail, within 10 calendar days of the expiration of the extension date.

6. **Subsequent Site Visits**

If the Certification Committee requires an additional site visit, after the initial site review, an additional fee of \$300.00 will be assessed. The fee must be received within 21 calendar days of postmark notification by the Committee for additional site reviews. The site visit shall occur within 30 calendar days of postmark of the additional fee.

7. **Evaluator's Final Report to the Committee After Corrective Action**

The evaluator shall submit a final report to the ACADV staff via email or fax within 10 calendar days of the: (1) site visit or (2) the expiration of any additional time granted by the Certification Committee. The Certification Committee will review the report and determine if the program is in compliance. If a program is determined not to be in compliance with the Standards then the program must adhere to the decision of the certification committee which may include a requirement to submit additional information or resubmit an application for certification and complete the full certification process or the Program may appeal the Certification Committee decision in accordance with the Standards' appeal process. ACADV shall send notice of the Certification Committee's decision to the applicant program via certified mail.

- a. No further corrections may be accepted by the evaluator beyond the expiration of the 60 days, or the expiration of any additional time granted by the Committee for corrective action.
- b. The final report will note which standards were violated, what corrective action was required, what corrective action was taken, and the findings of the evaluator.
- c. A copy of the evaluator's final report will also be sent to the Applicant Program.

8. **Decision Making Process**

Notice of the Certification Committee's decision will be sent via certified mail within 5 calendar days after the Certification Committee meeting in which the decision was made.

- a. The Committee will decide whether to certify, provisionally certify, or deny certification.
- b. In denying Certification the Committee will consider, among other things: (1) the evaluator's findings; (2) the severity of any standards violations; (3) the Federal, State and local regulations; 4) the response to corrective action notifications; and (5) the timeliness and appropriateness of the Program's current response to any corrective action evaluation notices.
- c. Programs that are denied certification will receive written notice of the Committee's decision via certified mail after 5 days of the Certification Committee date in which the decision was made.
- d. Programs that are certified by the Committee will be placed on a list of Certified Programs that are provided to all courts in the State of Alabama.
- e. Programs that are initially certified by the Committee are certified for a one year period and there after for a two year period. Programs that are certified will receive a written letter and a Certificate indicating their certification status.

9. **Provisional Certification**

- a. The Committee may grant Provisional Certification to a program under application, for a period of time as determined by the Certification Committee, if full compliance by the Program is deemed pending, but not yet attained.
- b. In determining whether or not to grant Provisional Certification, the Committee will consider, among other things, (1) the evaluator's recommendation, (2) the severity of any standards violations, (3) the history of the Program's compliance with these Standards as well as other Federal, State and local regulations, (4) the response to corrective action notifications, (5) the timeliness and appropriateness of the Program's current response to any corrective action evaluation notices, and (6) timeliness of initiating the application process.
- c. Programs that are Provisionally Certified will be placed on the list of Certified Programs with their provisional certification status and length of such status noted.
- d. Programs that are Provisionally Certified will receive a written notice of the Committee's decision and the allotted timeframe for achieving full compliance with the Standards.
- e. If subsequent site visits are required by the Committee, an additional evaluation fee will be assessed. The fees must be received by ACADV within 21 calendar days of the Program's notification of the need for an additional site visit. The site visit will occur within 30 days of the postmark of the fee.

10. **Appeals**

- a. A program that is denied certification may appeal that decision in writing to the Committee Chair.
- b. The notice of appeal must be received within 14 calendar days of the postmark of the letter of denial, and must be sent Certified Mail to ACADV. Any notice of appeal that fails to meet this time line will not be considered, and the denial of certification will stand.

- c. The Program will, within 60 days of the postmark of the written appeal notice, at a date and time set by the Committee chair, present its position in person to the Committee.
- d. At such an appeal, the appealing program shall bear the burden of establishing that the Program should be certified as being in compliance with the Alabama Certification Standards for Domestic Violence Perpetrator Programs based on its level of compliance at the expiration of the allotted time for any corrective action required. Corrective action taken beyond the allotted time (e.g., while the appeal of denial is pending) may only be considered once the Program submits a new application for certification and undergoes the application procedure anew.
- e. A decision will be made by the Committee within 30 calendar days of the face to face presentation. Notice of the decision will be sent via certified mail to the program within five days after Committee has rendered its decision.
- f. The decision of the Committee shall then be final.

11. **Certification Expiration & Renewal Applications**

Programs certified by the Alabama Certification Committee will receive notice indicating the period for which their program is considered certified. Programs seeking renewal must apply within 90 calendar days of their certification's expiration date. Programs that apply after this date will pay a penalty fee of \$100.00 in addition to the standard application fee and will possibly not be recertified before their program's certification date has expired. Programs with pending applications but whose certification has expired before the program has been renewed will be considered to have the status of Application Pending and will not be included in the Certification Notification List until the program has been reviewed and renewed by the Certification Committee.

12. **Fees and Technical Assistance**

- a. Programs desiring certification will be required to pay the application fee and any other fees required under these Standards.
- b. Any program requesting assistance in preparing for certification may contact AAVIP for information regarding technical assistance that is available for meeting compliance with State Standards. Each program is responsible for its own compliance with these Standards and any costs associated with ensuring compliance.

13. **Revocation of Certification**

- a. Violation(s) of State Standards shall be presented to the Certification Committee.
- b. The Committee has the authority to require corrective action or revoke certification.
- c. Programs whose certification is revoked will not be eligible for certification for a period of one year from the date of revocation, and, then, will only be eligible for provisional certification for one year.
- d. Judges in areas served by the Program will be notified of certification revocation by certified mail.

- e. Once the Program is provisionally certified, it will be evaluated by the Committee every six months, for one year from the date of provisional certification at the expense of the Program. After being found in compliance with these Standards for each of the six-month evaluations, the Program is eligible for certification by the Committee without provision.

14. **Complaint-Based Evaluation Visit**

- a. An unsolicited evaluation may be conducted between regularly scheduled evaluations if a formal complaint is received that reports a Certified program operates in a manner contrary to Alabama law or these Standards.
- b. The evaluator's report on the complaint-based evaluation is due to the Committee within 14 calendar days of the visit with a copy via certified mail to the Program. The Program will have no opportunity, at this point, to make corrections to any violations found by the evaluator.
- c. The Committee will consider the evaluator's findings. The Committee will decide whether the Program is in violation of Standards and whether to: (1) take no action; (2) require corrective action and allow an appropriate period of time for corrections; or (3) to revoke certification. The Committee may take action on the evaluator's findings independent of the claims made in the formal complaint which led to the complaint-based evaluation.
- d. In determining its response to the evaluator's findings, the Committee will consider, among other things, 1) the evaluator's findings (2) the severity of any standards violations, and (3) the history of the Program's compliance with these Standards, as well as other Federal, State and local regulations.
- e. If the Committee finds that the Program is in violation of Standards as claimed in the formal complaint, the Program shall pay for the fees associated with the complaint-based visit. If the Committee finds no basis for the formal complaint, ACADV shall cover the fees associated with the visit.
- f. The Committee will notify the Program of its decision via certified mail within 10 days of the decision of the committee.

SECTION TWO: PROGRAMMATIC STANDARDS

I. EXEMPTION POLICY

Groups developed to provide services to persons who are primary victims of domestic violence are exempt from these standards.

II. PHILOSOPHY AND PURPOSE

The Alabama Certification Standards for Perpetrator Intervention Programs were created to set minimum standards by which all agencies that operate intervention programs for perpetrators of domestic violence shall operate and be evaluated for certification.

III. PROGRAM PRINCIPLES

Domestic violence is a crime with criminal consequences.

The mission of perpetrator intervention programs in Alabama is to promote the safety of domestic violence victims and eliminate domestic violence by providing intervention to perpetrators, prioritizing safety of victims of domestic violence, and affecting social change leading to cultural values that prohibit rather than support abuse within intimate, family, household, engagement or dating relationships.

IV. PROGRAM PURPOSE

Perpetrator intervention programs are one component of a comprehensive community response to end domestic violence and are most effective when working in collaboration with a coordinated community response. Perpetrator intervention programs should therefore be initiated only in communities, which provide services for victims of domestic violence.

The role of these programs within the criminal justice system shall be as a sentencing condition.

Standard (1)

A program that provides violence or abuse intervention services to perpetrators of domestic violence must be certified according to these standards. See Section 30-7-6, 1975 Code of Alabama.

Standard (2)

Certification is limited to counties in which the Program applies for certification. The Program must specify in its application in which counties it is conducting business or soliciting referrals.

Standard (3)

Perpetrator intervention programs shall operate within a framework of certain fundamental tenets (Program curricula and policies should reflect these tenets):

- Perpetrator intervention programs should, above all, be committed to the safety of victims of domestic violence and their children.
- Perpetrators are solely responsible for the violence and abuse.
- Perpetrators must be held accountable for the violence and abuse.
- Alcohol and substance abuse do not diminish the responsibility for abusive/violent behavior and is not a causal agent for violent behavior. However, because alcohol and drug abuse is an aggravating factor, it should be addressed.

Standard (4)

Perpetrator intervention programs shall utilize the following goals in program implementation (*Programs should ensure such goals are incorporated throughout their program curricula, participant homework, group discussions and staff training*).

V. PROGRAM GOALS

- To assist the perpetrators in understanding that their acts of violence, abuse and use of power and privilege are a means of controlling victims' actions, thoughts and feelings.
- To encourage perpetrators to acknowledge their abuse and recognize their use of abusive behavior as a choice and to accept responsibility for its impact on their victims and others.
- To increase the perpetrator's willingness to change their abusive behavior by examining the negative effects of the behavior on their relationships, victim, children, friends and themselves.
- To expand perpetrators' understanding of their violence and abuse by examining the cultural, social and personal factors that influence their choice to be violent and abusive.
- To teach perpetrators practical skills for non-controlling and non-violent ways of relating to their partners.
- To encourage perpetrators to become accountable to those they have abused, to take whatever actions are necessary to comply with the safety needs of their partner and to make restitution for the effects of the abuse.

VI. PROGRAM EDUCATIONAL APPROACHES

Standard (5)

Intervention programs shall use an educational group format based on the following models:

- Violence is a learned behavior and can therefore be unlearned. Violence is socially learned and self-reinforcing. This approach to domestic violence makes violence the primary focus of intervention.
- Consequences of violence are damaging and self-defeating and alternatives to violent behavior must be taught. Interpersonal skill training assists in overcoming the social skill deficits reflected by domestic violence behaviors.

- Domestic violence is a pattern of controlling and coercive conduct that serves to deprive victims of their safety, liberty, and equality in the relationship. Perpetrators believe they are entitled to absolute power and control over their partners and perceive all interactions within relationships through a prism of compliance or disobedience. Because power and control are seen as the fundamental issues, interventions should directly challenge perpetrators attempt to control their partners through the use of physical force, verbal and nonverbal intimidation, and psychological abuse. This model more broadly defines domestic violence as any coercive act that forces victims to comply with all demands of the perpetrator and prohibits the victim from engaging in voluntary activities or making their own decisions without violent and abusive consequences.

Standard (6)

Each program shall have a specific written curriculum, which includes a minimum of the following:

- Identification, discussion, confrontation of abusive and controlling behavior to victims, including partners and children. All forms of domestic violence shall be identified and challenged. Specific attention to physical, emotional, verbal, mental, intimidation, sexual, and economic abuse, as well as the destruction or damaging of pets or property and other methods of control shall be included.
- Identification and discussion of the effects of violence and abuse on victims, including children who witness such abuse and violence. The short and long term effects of abuse and violence should be presented. Perpetrators shall be expected to take responsibility for creating these consequences. The goal shall be to build empathy and effect change in beliefs and behaviors.
- Confrontation of the power and control belief system and excuses for violence and abuse. This shall include a philosophical stance that violence and abuse is the sole responsibility and choice of the perpetrator and is never justified.
- Identification and discussion of non-cooperative and abusive forms of communication and ineffective quick-fix responses.
- Identification and practice of cooperative and non-abusive forms of communications, positive communication skills, long-term solutions and responsible ways of treating partners, children and others.
- Identification of cultural and social influences that contribute to abusive and violent behavior but without allowing these issues to excuse or justify individual responsibility for abuse and violence.
- The curriculum should be divided into weekly sessions addressing the issues outlined above and throughout these Standards.
- The curriculum shall include evidence of reinforcement of concepts addressed in groups. Such evidence may include, but is not limited to, such forms as: (1) homework; (2) instructions from facilitators; (3) worksheets or quizzes; (4) check-in facilitation, etc.

VII. PROHIBITED EDUCATIONAL APPROACHES

Standard (7)

Perpetrator intervention programs shall NOT use the following educational approaches. (*Program components including curricula, homework, group materials and discussion, policies, and staff training should NOT include information regarding the prohibited approaches*).

- **Victim Blaming**

Any intervention approach that blames the victim or places the victim in danger is prohibited. There is no behavior on the part of the victim which causes or excuses abuse. Perpetrators bear sole responsibility for their actions. Use of such themes as provocation or “pushing buttons” is revictimizing and should not be promoted by the perpetrator intervention program.

- **Victim Coercion or Mandates**

Any approach that coerces, mandates, or encourages voluntary participation of the victim is inappropriate.

- **Couples, Marriage or Family Therapy**

Couples therapy, marriage or family, is prohibited during the educational intervention.

- **Circular Process or Approach**

Any approach that uses a systems theory model, which treats the violence as a mutually circular process or any other model that minimizes the responsibility of the perpetrator and places responsibility for the violence upon the victim is prohibited.

- **Addiction Models**

Addiction counseling models, which identify the violence as an addiction and the victim and children as enabling or co-dependent in the violence, or purport that the abuse is powerless to change, are prohibited.

- **Containment Approaches**

Any approach that attempts to use containment methods in an attempt to de-escalate the violence is prohibited.

- **Impulse Control Models**

Use of theories or techniques that identify poor impulse control as the primary cause of violence is prohibited.

- **Psychopathology**

Any approach that identifies psychopathology on the part of either party as the primary cause of violence is prohibited.

VIII. SUPPLEMENTAL TECHNIQUES

The following may be used as supplemental techniques within an approach described in Standard 5, but are prohibited as the primary method of intervention.

- Psychodynamics Interventions
- Interventions that link causes of the violence to past experience and unconscious motivations may not be used as a program's primary educational approach.
- Communication Enhancement
- Anger Management
- Respectfully Dealing with Confrontations & Disagreements
- Getting In Touch With Emotions
- Appropriately Coping with Stressful Situations

Standard (8)

Female perpetrators, juvenile perpetrators and perpetrators under the age of 18 shall not be enrolled in intervention groups for adult male perpetrators. Perpetrator intervention programs shall provide or make referrals for individual or group services for these sets of perpetrators separate from adult male services.

IX. VOLUNTARY ENROLLMENT

Standard (9)

Persons whose enrollment is from non-judicial referral sources may participate in perpetrator intervention programs. They are required to adhere to the same general standards and general procedures as are court-ordered participants.

Standard (10)

The perpetrator intervention program shall have the ultimate authority of selection of participants and development of intervention plans for those who are referred to the Program in accordance with these Standards.

Standard (11)

Persons referred who are assessed not to be appropriate for the perpetrator intervention program should, to the degree possible, be referred back to the court for a more appropriate referral. Perpetrator Intervention Programs should make every effort to establish cross-referral practices with courts, court referral officers, and other program service providers in the community. Programs should document their efforts to establish these practices.

X. ESSENTIAL ELEMENTS OF A PROGRAM

Standard (12)

The program shall challenge the perpetrator's belief system of power and control. Group discussions, curricula and policies should include information challenging common power and control beliefs.

Standard (13)

Violence shall not be condoned under any circumstances. All abusive behaviors, intentional or unintentional, shall be challenged and if necessary reported to the court or other appropriate authorities.

Standard (14)

The program shall maintain the philosophical beliefs that:

- Abuse is a crime with criminal consequences
- Perpetrators choose to be abusive
- The perpetrator shall be held accountable for his actions and his violence

Standard (15)

Payment is an indicator of responsibility. The perpetrator shall assume financial responsibility for the intervention. Programs shall refer to appropriate community based services or offer other appropriate accountability measures for court-determined indigent referrals.

Standard (16)

Programs shall not allow clients to perform services for the economic or personal benefit of the Program or to employees of the Program instead of financial payment or community services. Programs may establish a payment scale to assist those with proven financial difficulties.

Standard (17)

Programs shall not provide or make referrals for couples counseling, family counseling, marital counseling, pastoral counseling, mediation or other alternative dispute resolution tactics.

Standard (18)

Perpetrator intervention programs shall seek to increase court referrals and improve court response to noncompliance as well as minimize lenient sentencing.

***Recommendation (18a)** - Intervention programs should recommend strong judicial response to perpetrators who drop out or are otherwise terminated from the intervention program. Intervention programs should not recommend intervention programs as a diversion to trial.*

Standard (19)

The program shall work cooperatively with the victim services and domestic violence programs as well as with other key agencies such as courts, prosecutors, law enforcement, probation officers and the community domestic violence task force.

Standard (20)

Programs shall show evidence that they have attempted to establish cooperative relationships with ACADV member victims' shelter programs in order to ensure support, information and advocacy for victims

Evidence must include:

- Records of terminated clients is provided to the local ACADV member victims' shelter program at least monthly;
- Records of victim contacts referring victims to ACADV member victims' shelter programs;
- Distribution of information to victims from the ACADV member victims' shelter programs in the area in which the victim lives or from the ACADV state office.
- Evidence **may** include but need not be limited to:
- Evidence of cross training with the ACADV member victims' shelter program;
- Evidence of meetings held with ACADV member victims' shelter program;
- Evidence of a formalized relationship with ACADV member victims' shelter program;
- Evidence of cooperative outreach efforts with the ACADV member victims' shelter program;
- Evidence of active community task force participation or collaboration with other agencies when a task force is not present.
- Letter from the executive director of the ACADV member program indicating a working relationship has been established.

Standard (21)

Composition of the groups shall be restricted to perpetrators of domestic violence who are of the same gender.

Standard (22)

There shall be a minimum of two group facilitators for each group, one male and one female. Facilitators should model equality in their relationship as they facilitate the curriculum in group presentations. Exceptions to the requirement for two facilitators is permitted on an infrequent basis, not to exceed 20% of the meetings in any given closed group and 20% of the meetings within the prior 6 months for open groups. Facilitators must sign-in to verify attendance at each meeting. The Program supervisor shall document the occurrence and include the date and reason the exception was necessary. Groups observed as part of a certification site visit must be conducted by one male and one female facilitator.

***Recommendation (22a)** - Facilitators should be individuals who have examined their own issues regarding abusive and violent behavior, sexuality, sex roles and attitudes toward members of the same sex and opposite sex.*

Standard (23)

The size of each group shall not exceed 20 perpetrators. A group of 12 to 15 perpetrators is preferred. Exceptions to group size are permitted on an infrequent basis, not to exceed 20% of the meetings in any given closed group and 20% of the meetings within the prior 6 months for open groups. However, even within the allowable exception, under no circumstances may the size of a group ever exceed 25.

Standard (24)

Group discussion shall provide ample opportunity for feedback to the perpetrator.

Standard (25)

The program shall have the responsibility to impose any reasonable conditions on participation in the intervention program that it deems appropriate.

XI. LENGTH OF PROGRAM

Standard (26)

The program shall be a minimum of 16 weekly groups for a minimum of 32 total hours for group participation. Each group shall be a minimum of (90) ninety minutes in length, not to include time allotted for breaks or fee payment.

Recommendation (26a) - Programs are strongly encouraged to increase requirements for program involvement as resources permit. Often, more than the minimum time in Standard 26 is necessary for perpetrators to choose to change their abusive and controlling behavior. The national average length of certified intervention programs is 26 weeks.

Standard (27)

Perpetrators who have re-offended ,if known to the perpetrator intervention program, shall be required, unless nullified by court order, to complete the basic program again (minimum 16 weekly sessions totaling 32 hours) and complete a minimum of 4 additional 2 hours sessions for a total of 40 hours. A re-offense occurs when any court has made a second referral to the perpetrator intervention program based on a new domestic violence incident or the offender has violated an existing Protection Order or Condition of Release or Probation.

The 4 additional sessions may be weekly or monthly. If the referring court does not accept the above referral recommendations then the perpetrator intervention program shall not be held responsible for non-compliance with this Standard.

XII. REQUIREMENTS FOR VICTIMS SAFETY

Standard (28)

Upon admission of the perpetrator, the intervention program shall notify the victim by letter of:

- The purpose of the program
- The services available to victims
- The procedure for reporting further offenses
- Limitations of the program
- The importance of safety planning
- A brief analysis of violence (e.g., its escalating nature)
- Resource information regarding victim services, including protection orders.
- The possibility of the perpetrator's dismissal from a group and the danger this may present to the victim
- The crisis line number of the shelter serving the area in which the victim lives
- A statement indicating that the victim is not responsible for the perpetrator's violence and therefore NOT required to participate with any aspect of the perpetrator intervention program.

XIII. VICTIM INVOLVEMENT

Standard (29)

Information shared by the victim shall not be shared with the perpetrator. Victims shall not be obligated to participate in any way in the intervention program with the perpetrator.

Standard (30)

The intervention program shall have a written policy that ensures that law enforcement and any potential victim of a perpetrator enrolled in the Program is warned, within 24 hour, regarding any threats to his/her life or threats of suicide. If the victim cannot be contacted, the Program must provide written documentation that all reasonable avenues to contact the victim have been exhausted.

Standard (31)

Perpetrator Intervention programs shall follow the Stated Child Abuse Reporting Law, Sections 26-14-1 to 26-14-13 Ala. Code 1975.

XIV. PUBLIC RELATIONS EFFORTS

Standard (32)

Programs developing materials that will be used to educate the public/community on issues involving domestic violence shall attempt to involve the input of the domestic violence victim's service program or ACADV. Documented requests for review of material or invitations to development meetings are examples of such effort.

XV. AGENCY STRUCTURE

Standard (33)

Each program must provide proof of a prior year financial audit or certified financial statement, or review of a financial statement performed by a certified public accountant if the agency has been in operation for at least one year. Each program must also provide proof of professional liability insurance providing liability coverage for the board of directors of the organization. In addition, programs who have licensed staff providing relevant professional services should show proof of relevant malpractice insurance for these staff members.

Standard (34)

Perpetrator intervention programs shall have safety plans for staff regarding work with perpetrators.

Standard (35)

Each agency, which provides intervention to perpetrators of domestic violence as a court referral source, shall be operated by community-based, non-profit agency that is governed by a board of directors which reflects the community it serves. (See Domestic Violence Shelter Standards Act, Section 30-7-6 Ala. Code 1975).

XVI. PERSONNEL QUALIFICATIONS

Standard (36)

Facilitators and assessors employed by the Program, volunteers, interns, and regular employees of the Program shall be violence free in their own lives and not be in a violent or abusive relationship. No program shall hire or contract with an individual who has been:

- A perpetrator of domestic violence or abuse, unless the Program Supervisor is satisfied that the staff member, or potential staff member, has successfully completed a certified intervention program, remained violence free for at least three years, free from any criminal convictions for at least three (3) years, and has a clear and present view of the focus of the program and what would be expected of them. The Program must also seek input from the staff members, potential staff members, victims, current partners and the intervention program completed by the individual.

- A victim of domestic violence unless the Program Supervisor is satisfied that the potential staff member has successfully completed a counseling program to deal with or has dealt with issues related to the violence and abuse. The staff person must be free of violence, abusive relationships and free from criminal convictions for at least 3 years, and have a clear and present view of the focus of the program and what would be expected of them. Also, if appropriate, the staff person must have a recommendation from the counseling program they completed.

Standard (37)

All staff members shall be required to sign a statement stating that they are in compliance with Standard 36. This statement should include a comprehensive list of abusive behaviors for them to review.

Standard (38)

The program shall have a policy which seeks to ensure that staff and contractors employed by the Program, as well as volunteers and interns, shall not abuse alcohol, use illicit drugs or abuse prescription drugs and never allow alcohol or drugs to impair their individual ability to function in a responsible and professional manner. Programs shall include a drug-free workplace policy in their personnel policies.

Standard (39)

Staff members and contractors employed by the Program, as well as volunteers and interns, shall have a background free of conduct, which bears adversely on his/her ability to provide required services. Staff shall not engage in conduct resulting in a criminal conviction, or any other conduct, criminal or otherwise, deemed to impair the individual's ability to provide services or which jeopardizes the purposes of the Program.

Standard (40)

Any staff member (employee, contractor, volunteer or intern) who is charged with behavior as described in Standards 38 and 39 shall have no contact with either perpetrators or victims of domestic violence if these charges are verified through credible evidence/sources, investigation by a licensing authority, finding by a court of law or acknowledgement by the individual.

Standard (41)

Any staff member, volunteer, intern, or contractor with the Program who has been arrested for domestic violence or has been served with a petition for a protection from abuse, or are subject to an ex parte protection order, if known to the program, can have no contact with either perpetrators or victims of domestic violence until an acquittal or dismissal. Staff members who are subject to a permanent protection order are subject to Standards 39 and 40.

Standard (42)

The Program shall attempt to have staff that is reflective of the ethnic diversity of the community. Programs should document all efforts to advertise, hire, and otherwise involve staff, contractors, and volunteers who are reflective of the ethnic diversity of the communities served by the Program.

Standard (43)

The Program shall attempt to make reasonable accommodations for linguistic and other special needs clients within the community served. Programs should document all efforts to accommodate for such needs.

Standard (44)

The Program shall have a written ethics policy prohibiting sexual or intimate relationships with current program participants or their family members, and victims of program participants. The program shall also have a written ethics policy covering conflict of interest, personal issues regarding domestic violence and issues of power and control, racism, sexism, homophobia, discrimination and criminal activity.

Standard (45)

Perpetrator intervention program staff, volunteers, interns, and contractors shall not voluntarily testify on behalf of the perpetrators in any criminal or civil legal proceedings. If program staff is compelled to testify, staff shall attempt to limit testimony to interactions and material observed and used in group.

XVII. REQUIREMENTS FOR PROGRAM FACILITATORS AND INTAKE ASSESSORS

Standard (46)

Moral Character (For Program Personnel)

Perpetrator Intervention Programs Certified by the Alabama Certification Committee under the state certification minimum standards shall have the following code of conduct:

1. No DVIP employee shall display favoritism or preferential treatment for one client or a group of clients over another.
2. No DVIP employee may deal with any perpetrator except in a professional relationship that will support provided goals of the program. Specifically, staff members must never accept for themselves or any member of their family, any personal (tangible or intangible) gift from a client or the client's family or victims of a client. All staff are required to report to the program director any outside personal or business contact or relationship with clients or family members of clients.

Standards (47)

Facilitators are required to have a minimum of a high school diploma. Facilitators with less than a Bachelor's degree shall be paired with a facilitator with a minimum of a Bachelor's degree. Degreed facilitators and Intake Assessors shall hold a Bachelor's degree in the social service field or related field with a minimum of 2 years postgraduate experience in a social service field.

Standard (48)

BASIC TRAINING REQUIREMENTS

Program facilitators and intake assessors having direct contact with perpetrators shall have at least 24 hours of orientation and training before working unsupervised. Sixteen of these hours must be approved by the Alabama Association of Violence Intervention Programs (AAVIP). Eight hours of this training requirement must consist of training on victim's issues. This section of the training must be approved by ACADV before working unsupervised.

If a new employee is hired during the second year of a program's recertification cycle then the employee is required only to have the 24 hours of basic orientation training. Continuing education hours requirements for the new employees shall begin during the following year.

CONTINUING EDUCATION REQUIREMENTS

After completion of the above basic training requirements, program facilitators and intake assessors having direct contact with perpetrators shall have at least sixteen (16) hours of continuing education prior to each re-certification, four (4) hours of which must be victim training. The 4 hours of training on victim's issues must be approved by ACADV and other training must be approved by AAVIP.

XVIII. REQUIREMENTS FOR PROGRAM SUPERVISORS

Standard (49)

Intervention program supervisors/coordinators shall have either a minimum of a master's degree in social services, education or related field or a bachelor's degree in social work, counseling, or criminal justice, or related field and a minimum of five years relevant work experience to include management and staff supervisory experience. Supervisors shall be full time employees of the agency and shall be responsible for the following:

- Day-to-day program management
- Personnel and group supervision
- Making admission and termination decisions regarding participants
- Ensuring program policies and practice are in compliance with these State Standards

Programs must have an established relationship with a licensed clinician and have a policy outlining the circumstances and program components in which a licensed clinician should be involved. Programs should provide documentation in their policies and in case files. At a minimum a licensed clinician must be involved in the following (but not limited to):

- On-going consultation as needed based on the program's policy
- Intake assessments if a mental health issue is indicated or suspected
- Development and oversight of client treatment and assessment plans for perpetrators in need of or suspected of needing mental health or substance abuse assessments/services
- Repeat offenders (individuals who have been previously court-ordered to the program due to the occurrence of a new domestic violence incident)
- Individuals indicating substance abuse problems or regular use

Perpetrators that are referred to the Court Referral Program for mental health or substance abuse assessments or referrals or are directly referred by the Perpetrator Intervention Program to a Certified Mental Health or Substance Abuse treatment Center will have met the obligation regarding involvement of a licensed clinician under these conditions as required by Standard 49.

Standard (50)

BASIC EDUCATION REQUIREMENTS

Intervention program supervisors/coordinators shall have at least 48 hours of orientation and training. Thirty-two (32) hours must be approved by AAVIP. Sixteen hours of this training requirement must consist of training on victim's issues. This section of the training must be approved by ACADV, as outlined before working unsupervised.

If a new supervisor is hired during the second year of a program's recertification cycle then the employee is required only to have the 48 hours of basic orientation training. Continuing education hour requirements for the new employees shall begin during the following year.

CONTINUING EDUCATION REQUIREMENTS

After completion of the above basic training requirements, program supervisors/coordinators shall have at least twenty-four (24) hours of continuing education prior to each re-certification, eight (8) of which must be training on victim's issues. The eight (8) hours of training on victim's issues must be approved by ACADV and the other sixteen hours regarding perpetrator issues must be approved by AAVIP.

XIX. CONFLICT OF INTEREST

It is important that both actual and apparent conflicts of interest among assessment providers, perpetrator intervention programs, and concurrent treatment providers be avoided.

Standard (51)

When a program determines that a perpetrator needs substance abuse treatment or education prior to participating in the domestic violence intervention program, a list of certified or licensed treatment providers will be provided to the court and/or perpetrator for selection.

Standard (52)

When a program determines that a perpetrator needs mental health treatment or education prior to, in addition to, or instead of participating in the domestic violence intervention program; a list of certified or licensed mental health treatment providers will be provided to the court and/or perpetrator for selection.

Standard (53)

Domestic Violence Perpetrator Intervention Programs operated by Alabama Court Referral Programs shall ensure that their referral policies comply with the requirements of the Administrative Office of Courts, Alabama law and do not present a conflict of interest as defined by these Standards.

XX. PROMPTNESS OF CONTACTS

Standard (54)

The Program shall contact the court to establish a procedure for prompt contact of the Program by the perpetrator.

Standard (55)

Programs shall schedule an appointment within 30 calendar days of the perpetrator contacting the Program.

Standard (56)

If the perpetrator does not make contact within 30 calendar days, the program shall notify the court.

XXI. ASSESSMENT PROCESS OF PERPETRATORS

These standards mandate intervention for violent and/or abusive behavior. Treatment for substance abuse and other problems, which may be deemed necessary as a part of a total intervention program, do not replace intervention for domestic violence.

It is understood that intervention may require more than confronting and educating on violent and/or abusive behavior and may include referrals to develop a sober and drug free lifestyle, social skills, self-esteem, employment training, mental health treatment and parenting skills.

Standard (57)

The intake process shall explore a number of areas with perpetrators. These areas will assist in determining whether perpetrators meet the admission criteria for intervention services and whether other referrals are more immediately appropriate. The program shall evaluate whether clients should be required to engage in drug and alcohol, mental health or other intervention services in order to continue their participation in the program.

Standard (58)

The program shall have necessary preliminary information prior to engaging in an evaluation process to determine the suitability of perpetrators for the program. The program shall require the following information from perpetrators at intake:

- Name, telephone number and mailing and living address, date of birth, social security number, driver license number, employer, and address of place of work and telephone contact number at work and emergency contact.
- Partner and/or victim's name telephone number and mailing and living address, address of place of work and telephone contact number at work. This can be waived if it jeopardizes the safety of the victim or is unavailable.
- A history of abuse in current and past relationships. The program must complete a lethality assessment to assess the risk of future violence.

- A history of violence and abuse towards women, children and the family history.
- A history of past and current criminal behavior.
- A history of alcohol and drug abuse, including arrest for DUI, participation in treatment programs, arrest, incarcerations, and medications used. If the program has concerns about the perpetrator's ability to participate in the program because of substance abuse this should be reported to the court and/or the Court referral officer.
- A history of mental health problems or disruptive behavior. If the program has concerns about the perpetrator's mental stability and ability to participate in the program, the program shall delay admission until a mental health evaluation can be completed. If a client discloses having a current mental health disorder, he must provide to the program a copy of the diagnosis, treatment plan, and medications prescribed and currently used. The perpetrator must sign an information release form allowing the program access to this information from the treating therapist or agency.
- A signed agreement. After reviewing program rules, the perpetrator must sign an agreement that includes the rules, goals, responsibilities, confidentiality, and fees. This agreement should also include a statement that all information they have given is true, correct and current. Withholding or giving false information and not informing the program of any changes may result in termination and referral back to the court or referring agency.

Standard (59)

The evaluation process shall involve the initial intake and will continue even after the perpetrator has been allowed to enter an intervention program. The process shall concentrate on the perpetrator's suitability for the perpetrator intervention program by continuing to evaluate and document:

- Attendance at sessions
- Attitude and cooperation with program rules
- Participation
- Any reported or indicated violent and abusive behavior
- Compliance with financial responsibility
- Reported attempts to practice program concepts

XXII. RISK ASSESSMENT

Assessment of risk is impossible to determine with complete accuracy due to the violent and unpredictable nature of domestic violence. Domestic violence can become lethal at anytime.

Standard (60)

Programs shall continue to assess perpetrators for risk of future violence and/or lethality with a particular responsibility to warn victims and current partners of potential risk. The assessment should be conducted on an on-going basis throughout the perpetrator's participation in the program. The program must immediately attempt to contact victims of any credible threat or intent to harm. It is recommended that the police and other appropriate agencies be contacted. All attempts to contact the victim and other agencies must be documented.

Standard (61)

It is not required that a lethality assessment be conducted with the victim. If the perpetrator intervention program discusses lethality assessment tools and assessment results with victims and current partners, intervention programs shall inform victims/current partners that lethality risk is impossible to accurately predict and that domestic violence can become lethal at anytime.

XXIII. CONFIDENTIALITY POLICIES

Perpetrator Confidentiality

Standard (62)

Communications between the program participant and the program shall be confidential unless specifically exempted from confidentiality by the participant's release of information, by requirements outlined in these Standards, or by law. Programs must advise perpetrators of the limitations to confidentiality.

Standard (63)

Perpetrator Intervention Program Staff shall report to probation, the court and or law enforcement any criminal behavior or violation of court orders relating to domestic violence that is admitted by the perpetrator during the course of the program.

Standard (64)

To facilitate communications necessary for periodic safety checks and case monitoring the program shall require the perpetrator to sign releases from confidentiality to the following entities, if known, in order to:

- Inform the victim and victim/legal advocates that the perpetrator is enrolled in the program.
- Provide information for safety purposes to the victim and victim/legal advocates.
- Contact prior and current treatment agencies to provide information on the perpetrator to the program.
- Provide information on the perpetrator's participation in the program and any abusive behaviors to relevant legal entities including:
 - Courts
 - Parole officers
 - Probation officers
 - Provide information to any person, whose safety appears to be at risk for the participant's potential violence and lethality, including but not limited to:
 - Victim (s)
 - Any guardians of children
 - Significant others or current partner
 - Victim advocates
 - Police

Standard (65)

Programs may require a participant to sign additional releases including but not limited to:

- Provide the victim with periodic reports regarding the perpetrator's participation.
- Discuss group attendance arrangement with the perpetrator's current employer.
- To state that the program is permitted to disclose information to the court or investigating body about a participant when the participant or his heir, executors or administrators file a suit of complaint against the perpetrator intervention program which arises out of, or is connected with, the intervention rendered or denied to such participant by the program.

XXIV. VICTIM CONFIDENTIALITY

Standard (66)

Information provided by the victim to the program is confidential unless required by Alabama law to disclose. If a new offense occurs, the victim will be informed and referred to appropriate law enforcement and local domestic violence victim service programs.

Standard (67)

Records of victim contacts shall be kept separate and secure from the perpetrator files.

XXV. CONFIDENTIALITY IN GROUP ACTIVITIES

Standard (68)

Program groups shall be closed except to participants, program staff, and /or others professionally affiliated with domestic violence or perpetrator intervention services or;

- Professionals offering interpretation services for the deaf and/or hearing impaired or language translation/ interpretation.
- Others bringing specific information critical to the group.

Standard (69)

The program shall obtain a written agreement for confidentiality with all perpetrators and invited guests, including the certification evaluator. The agreement shall prohibit disclosure of identities of participants or specific information except when participants provide express written permission for disclosure.

XXVI. PROGRAM COMPLETION, TRANSFERS, DENIAL AND TERMINATION

Standard (70)

Programs shall inform the court in writing of any actions by the program participants that violates a court order or the Program's requirements. Such violations may include reporting to the program later than the date ordered by the court, being dismissed from a group session due to violation of a group rule/requirement or attending a group session under the influence.

XXVII. COMPLETION

Standard (71)

If the perpetrator is determined to be inappropriate for the perpetrator intervention program the provider shall:

- Document the reason the individual does not meet the admissions criteria
- Make recommendations to the court
- Inform, in writing, the victims and current partners of the denial; including information about services available and resources and safety planning.

Standard (72)

The provider shall deny admission to perpetrators for reasons including but not limited to:

- Extensive psychiatric history including active mental health history
- Substance abuse or chemical dependency that requires completion of a residential or other treatment program
- An inability to function in a group due to limited mental capacity

Standard (73)

When transferring perpetrators to other intervention programs out of state, the Program to which the perpetrator is being transferred must meet the standards of that state, if any exist. When transferring perpetrators to other intervention programs within Alabama, that program must be certified.

Standard (74)

The program shall develop guidelines for termination from the program so that termination decisions are uniform and predictable and so that discrimination does not occur against any participation based on race, class, age, physical handicap, religion, educational attainment, ethnicity, national origin or sexual preference, except as the program is not able to provide adequate intervention services based on the stage of its current development, personnel or resources.

Standard (75)

If a perpetrator is required to leave a group session early or is not permitted to attend a group session, the perpetrator program should make every effort to contact and inform the victim or current partner of the situation before the perpetrator leaves the premises. This contact should be kept confidential from the perpetrator.

Standard (76)

If a perpetrator is terminated from the Program, the Program shall document clearly and specifically the reasons for termination without jeopardizing the safety of the victim, current partner, or victim service agencies and:

- Provide written notice to the victim of the termination and the reasons for such termination, with information about resources, services and safety planning.
- Inform the perpetrator of the termination and the reasons for such termination.
- Inform the court of the termination and the reasons for such termination.
- Provide a written notice to the local victim service program of terminated clients and the reasons for such termination.

Recommendation (76a) - Intervention programs should make specific recommendations, including alternatives such as probation and/or restarting the Program.

Standard (77)

Termination may occur when the perpetrator is expelled from the program for one or more reasons including but not limited to:

- While in the program documented or confessed assaults threats, stalking, or harassment or menacing and/or related arrest.
- Violations of restraining orders or other judicial orders that pertain to the safety of the victim, partner, or children
- Severe or repeated disruptive or threatening behavior in groups or with the perpetrator intervention program staff
- Attending group under the influence of alcohol or drugs or continued or repeated substance abuse, including abuse of alcohol, prescription or illicit drugs during the months of program participation
- Failure to meet agreed upon payment schedules
- Failure to maintain regular attendance
- Repeated tardiness
- Failure to comply with reasonable program standards, group rules and regulations or agreements
- Failure to actively participate in groups sessions

Standard (78)

Upon completion, the program shall:

- Provide a written notice of program completion to the court
- Attempt to notify the victims and current partners of program completion indicating that completion means only contractual compliance and is not predictive of non-violent or non-abusive behavior. In this notification, the victim and/or current partner shall be informed of:
 - Services available to victims
 - The procedure for reporting further offences
 - The importance of safety planning
 - A brief analysis of violence (e.g., its escalating nature)
 - Resource information regarding victim services, including protection orders
 - The crisis line number of the shelter serving the area in which the victim lives
 - Follow-up services for participants are strongly encouraged

Standard (79)

Individuals shall be determined to have completed the perpetrator intervention program when they have complied with all terms and conditions of the intervention program agreement including but not limited to:

- Compliance with all rules and regulations
- Compliance with court orders related to participation in the groups
- Attendance at weekly group sessions and all other required appointments
- Active participation in all group activities
- Completion of all homework and other assignments

Standard (80)

Programs should consider the following to assist in making recommendations or referrals:

- Cessation of the violence and threats of violence and other abusive and controlling behaviors while participating in the group
- Acceptance of responsibility for all violent and abusive behavior
- Cessation of blaming the victim for the violent and abusive behavior

XXVIII. RESEARCH

Standard (81)

Academic research studies conducted with intervention programs shall involve the input of the Alabama Coalition Against Domestic Violence. Evidence of effort can be in the form of documentation of invitations to meetings.

Standard (82)

These standards for perpetrator intervention programs do not require a specific method for the evaluation of the program effectiveness.

Perpetrator intervention programs shall utilize the following items in conducting evaluation of program effectiveness:

- Records of arrest, after completion of the program, of participants for act of domestic violence
- Issuance, after completion of the program, of protection orders restraining participants from acts of domestic violence
- Revocation of probation due to re-offense with present or future partner
- Subsequent convictions for acts of domestic violence
- Information received, after completion of the program, from domestic violence shelter identifying a perpetrator who has participated in the program
- Perpetrator evaluations of the program submitted to a neutral party
- Evaluation of program effectiveness must include reports on the percentage of perpetrators who complete the program and the percentage who are dismissed or who fail to complete the program

Standard (83)

Evaluations of program effectiveness shall not be based on information obtained exclusively from the perpetrator and shall not be based solely on the number of former participants re-ordered by the court back to the perpetrator intervention program.

Standards revised February 2008 **Effective date June 1, 2008**

NOTE:

If any portion or standard is found to be in violation of federal or state laws, it shall be null and void and the remaining standards provisions shall continue in force and effect.

If two or more of these standards are found to be in conflict, the Certification Committee will resolve the conflicts and render a decision, which will most favor a program's certification status.

Alabama Perpetrator Standards Act

Section 30-7-6 - Perpetrator counseling programs.

(a) The coalition shall establish minimum program and treatment standards for perpetrator counseling programs. The standards shall be used as guidelines by the courts for recommending referral to the programs. Perpetrator programs shall:

(1) Be operated by community-based, nonprofit agencies that are governed by a board of directors which reflects the community each serves.

(2) Have as the primary goal of the treatment program the reduction and elimination of domestic violence.

(3) Operate its principal place of business or service activity in the state.

(4) Agree to, accept, adopt, and implement the prevailing minimum standards for perpetrator programs as established by the coalition.

(b) Perpetrator treatment programs shall not be eligible to receive state funds allocated to the coalition for disbursement to shelters.

**For additional information on Domestic Violence Perpetrator Intervention
Standards please contact ACADV at 334-832-4842**