

**Council for Women &
Youth Involvement**

Machelle Sanders

Secretary

Mary Williams-Stover

Executive Director

March 2020

To: NC Domestic Violence Intervention Programs

From: NC Council for Women and Youth Involvement

NC Domestic Violence Intervention Management Committee, NC Domestic Violence Commission

RE: Coronavirus (COVID-19) and Absence/Termination Policy

The NC Council for Women and Youth Involvement in partnership with the NC Domestic Violence Intervention Management Committee have made the following recommendations to NC Domestic Violence Intervention Programs regarding Coronavirus (COVID-19).

- Please follow the recommendations and guidance put forth by Local, State and Federal Governments regarding Coronavirus (COVID-19).
 - NC DHHS
 - <https://www.ncdhhs.gov/divisions/public-health/coronavirus-disease-2019-covid-19-response-north-carolina>
 - CDC
 - <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/index.html>
- It is recommended that all agencies exercise leniency with their group participant absence policy.
 - Participants that are absent from group work due to coronavirus related quarantine, self-isolation or social distancing should not have those absences counted against them.
 - Participants should be allowed to resume group work at the point where they left off and not be made to restart group classes upon returning from coronavirus related absence.
 - Participants are still expected to complete 26 weeks of group work, even if they exceed the 30-week time frame due to coronavirus related absences.
- Our recommendation is that participants not be terminated if absences are due to coronavirus related quarantine, self-isolation or social distancing.
- As a reminder, Skype-based, Phone Conference or distance learning styled group work is **not** allowable.
- We recommend that you take this time as an agency to develop your internal protocols and succession plan in the event of staff reduction or agency closure due to coronavirus.
- If your agency is temporarily closed due to Coronavirus, please inform our office.

If you have any questions, please contact Anna Capel at anna.capel@doa.nc.gov or 828-251-6169.

Anna Capel, Interim Domestic Violence Intervention Program Coordinator

CC: Robert M. Wilkins, NC DVIM Committee Chair

Tiffany R. Bell, NC DVIM Committee Co-Chair

April Burgess-Johnson, NC Domestic Violence Commission Chair

Mary Williams-Stover, NC CFW & YI Executive Director