

## What exactly is a Domestic Violence Intervention Program (DVIP)?

In 2002, the N.C. Council for Women was granted the authority to approve intervention/treatment programs for domestic violence offenders utilized by the North Carolina court system.

These programs are designed to educate offenders on their behavior and help them to develop new methods of interacting with intimate partners, family members, and their communities.

## Am I to blame for violence?

You are never to blame!

Your partner's violence is rooted in a number of complex factors that often manifest in their desire for power and control. DVIP classes engage offenders so that they may accept full responsibility, learn triggers, and change patterns of behavior. Regardless of problems that existed in the relationship, you are never to blame.

## Can a domestic violence offender really change?

Yes! By engaging in DVIPs and learning to accept full responsibility for their actions, offenders can change. Positive signs of change in your partner include, but are not limited to:

- Has stopped violent and/or threatening behavior toward you or others.
- Does not coerce you into doing things you don't want to do.
- Acknowledges that their abusive behavior is wrong.
- Respects your opinions even if they don't agree with it; they listen and try to understand.
- Has learned to properly manage their anger.
- Does not make you feel afraid or belittled.
- Understands and acknowledges they don't have control over you.
- Constructively reflects on past and current triggers of abusive behavior.

# Partner Guide

Information if your partner is completing a:

## Domestic Violence Intervention Program

North Carolina Domestic Violence Intervention Program

828-641-7730

9 a.m. – 5 p.m.

Monday - Friday

## Should I leave if they are violent again?

If you notice your partner is using violence again, your first line of action should be to call

**919-733-2455**

to be referred to your local Domestic Violence Program.

From there, the advocates will provide you with services to ensure your safety and possible options that are open to you free-of-charge.

These advocates will also help you create safety plans, provide court advocacy, etc. Any contact or information that you share with these advocates is kept 100% confidential.



## What is my role & how do I know if the program works?

You have the choice to be as involved as you want to be in the program. Program outcomes are based on willingness to engage but there is no guarantee it will work. DVIPs that do work use the following standards:

1. Programs should always account for your safety. They should also never disclose any private information you share that could be potentially harmful to you.
2. Programs should last 26 weeks at minimum. The longer the program, the more opportunities for change.
3. Program content includes understanding and addressing the triggers of violence and interrupts the rationale of power and control.

## What if they are sorry?

Many offenders are regretful about their actions. However, taking responsibility for their behavior is the most important part of the process. The offender must make a commitment to stop their violence and work on their actions.

While apologies may reflect initial steps toward accountability, engaging in DVIPs helps to challenge their efforts to exercise power, control, and entitlement.

The safety of survivors is a primary concern for DVIPs, and survivors often are the best judges of whether their partner has decided to acknowledge and account for their violence.

DVIPs that are certified by the NC Council for Women must interact with victim-survivor agencies and rely on survivors for advice and directions.