



Domestic Violence Offender Management Board
Office of Domestic Violence & Sex Offender Management
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INTRODUCTION TO TREATMENT VICTIM ADVOCACY IN DOMESTIC VIOLENCE OFFENDER TREATMENT

Domestic Violence Offender Treatment Standards:

<http://cdpsdocs.state.co.us/dvomb/Standards/standards18.pdf>

Treatment Victim Advocate Resources:

<https://www.colorado.gov/pacific/dcj/domestic-violence-victim-advocate-resources>

- In Colorado, the Domestic Violence Offender Management Board (DVOMB) is legislatively mandated to create standards for the evaluation, treatment, and monitoring of domestic violence offenders, as well as establish an application and review process for approved domestic violence offender treatment providers.
- The primary goals of domestic violence offender treatment are the cessation of abusive behaviors and victim and community safety, with the understanding that offender risk and victim safety are dynamic. Colorado has differentiated levels of offender treatment, with three levels (A, B, C) based on risk assessment.
- Victims have the right to determine the extent to which they would like to be informed of an offender's status during the treatment process, and the extent to which they would like to provide input about the offender treatment process.
- Treatment victim advocates (TVAs) typically work for or contract with offender treatment providers. They attempt to contact victims of the offenders who are in treatment, to provide information, support, and resources. TVAs have a duty to maintain confidentiality and are mandatory reporters of known or suspected child abuse and abuse of elders and at-risk adults.
- If TVAs do not have accurate contact information for a victim, they can contact a victim service officer (VSO) in probation or parole and request to have the TVA contact information passed along to a victim. A victim can also contact an offender treatment program to get connected to a TVA, or contact probation or parole to ask for a TVA to contact a victim.
- If a system-based advocate wants to contact a TVA, they can contact a victim service officer (VSO) in probation or parole and request any available TVA contact information. If a system-based advocate is aware of the offender treatment provider, they may contact the provider directly and request contact from the TVA.
- The multi-disciplinary treatment team (MTT) is designed to collaborate and coordinate the domestic violence offender treatment process, promote containment, and help prevent triangulation. The MTT includes, at a minimum, the offender treatment provider, the treatment victim advocate, and the referring supervising authority (probation or parole, except in cases of unsupervised probation). Other relevant professionals may also be a part

of the MTT, such as child welfare or child protective services, or collateral mental health providers for an offender.

- MTTs participate in decision-making through consensus throughout the offender treatment process, including the initial level placement in treatment, any possible change in level of offender treatment, treatment plan reviews, and discharge.

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- TVAs are a bridge between victims and MTTs, participate in case problem-solving, and educate MTTs on trauma-informed considerations for victims.
- TVAs represent victim experiences and perspectives, whether or not a victim has been contacted, and whether or not a victim chooses to share information with an MTT
- TVAs contact victims and discuss safe modes of communication, offer a general overview of the DV offender treatment process, offer general information about DV (such as warning signs and risks), discuss safety issues, and offer resources and referrals as needed
- TVAs explain confidentiality and the limitations, which includes mandatory reporting requirements, as well as victim choices and impacts about sharing information with the treatment provider and/or the entire MTT
- TVAs may share information with victims about offender attendance/absences, progress in treatment and with treatment goals, changes in risk, and discharge planning
- TVAs can use discretion regarding sharing information when a co-defendant and/or identified victim is actually the abusive partner