

Approved Revisions to Section 1.0

IMPORTANT NOTE: The Domestic Violence Offender Management Board (DVOMB) approved the following revisions to Section 1.0 of the Standards, which will go into effect on January 1st, 2021. The approved revisions in Section 1.0 clarify the DVOMB's purview to stakeholders who utilize the Standards and refers to statutory citations of the DVOMB. Additionally, the approved revisions also give more flexibility for different terms to be used when referring to offenders in the Standards in other Sections where applicable. Finally, the new language also adds a short description of the process involved with offender services pursuant to the Standards. The Board approved these revisions with the intent of having a planned, purposeful and deliberate implementation process.

SECTION 1.0 Introduction to the Domestic Violence Offender Management Board

The Colorado Domestic Violence Offender Management Board (hereafter Board) was created by the General Assembly in the Colorado Department of Public Safety in July 2000 pursuant to § 16-11.8-103, C.R.S. The legislative declaration in the Board's enabling statute states that the consistent and comprehensive evaluation, assessment, treatment and continued monitoring of domestic violence offenders at each stage of the criminal justice system is necessary in order to lessen the likelihood of re-offense, to work toward the elimination of recidivism and to enhance the protection of current and potential victims (§ 16-11.8-101 C.R.S.)¹. The Board was charged with the promulgation of standards for the evaluation, assessment, treatment, and monitoring of domestic violence offenders defined in § 16-11.8-102, C.R.S. and the establishment of an application and review process for approved providers who provide services to domestic violence offenders in the state of Colorado. The evaluation, assessment, treatment, and behavioral monitoring of domestic violence offenders shall only be provided by those individuals whose name appears on the DVOMB Approved Provider List pursuant to § 16-11.8-104(1).

The Board is committed to carrying out its legislative mandate to enhance public safety and the protection of victims and potential victims through the development and maintenance of comprehensive, consistent and effective standards for the evaluation, assessment, treatment and behavioral monitoring of adult domestic violence offenders. The Board will continue to explore the developing literature and research on the most effective methods for intervening with domestic violence offenders and to identify best practices in the field.²

1.01 Purview of the DVOMB

- I. Pursuant to § 16-11.8-103(4)(a)(II) C.R.S., the DVOMB *Standards* apply to adult domestic violence offenders who have committed a crime, the underlying factual basis of which has

¹ Although the term assessment does not appear in § 16-11.8-101, the DVOMB has included this term as part of the treatment process defined by the DVOMB Standards pursuant to § 16-11.8-102(4).

² For more information about the Board, membership, and mandates, please see the DVOMB By-laws.

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been found by the court on the record to include an act of domestic violence, and who are placed on probation, placed on parole, or placed in community corrections (i.e. direct sentence, DOC inmates occupying state funded community correction beds), or who receive a deferred judgment and sentence.³ The DVOMB Standards apply to post-conviction and pre-sentence offender evaluations.⁴ Domestic violence convictions pursuant to local municipal codes are not explicitly included in the DVOMB statutory mandate, but evaluation and treatment pursuant to the *Standards* can inform these cases as a guide.

- II. There may be other individuals in need of evaluation, assessment, treatment, and supervision who do not meet the statutory definition of a domestic violence offender or are not under the jurisdiction of the Colorado criminal justice system. Approved Providers should consider the use of the DVOMB *Standards* as a best practice guideline and at their discretion for cases that do not fall under the purview of the DVOMB. For more information, please see Appendix A.
- III. The DVOMB *Standards* use a variety of terms referencing persons who are subject to these *Standards*. The terms that are frequently used in the *Standards* include domestic violence offender, offender, and client. These terms of reference are used in different sections of the *Standards* based on the focus of a given section (e.g., treatment, supervision, etc.), as well as the preferred language of professional stakeholders who frequently reference that section. The DVOMB notes that the use of the term ‘domestic violence offender’ is consistent with the statutory definition identifying a person who committed a crime, the underlying factual basis of which has been found by the court on the record to include an act of domestic violence. However, the DVOMB recognizes that the use of the term domestic violence offender is in no way intended to label individuals by their behavior, or suggest that those who undergo treatment cannot live a violence and abuse free life-style.

1.02 General Overview of the Evaluation and Treatment Process

- I. Upon order by the Court or Parole Board, an offender is required by statute to receive an evaluation and attend treatment as recommended.⁵ The offender evaluation will result in treatment recommendations that assess the offender’s need for treatment, determine what type of treatment is needed, and identify the initial risk level and any additional needs the offender may have related to containment, stabilization and safety (Section 4.0). Please refer to the Figure 1 below for a visual depiction of this process.
- II. Treatment is the comprehensive set of planned therapeutic experiences and interventions designed to assist the offender in changing any power and control dynamics, abusive thoughts, and behaviors (Section 5.01). Treatment requires the offender to attend in-person group or individual sessions at a minimum of once a week or more depending on the offender’s treatment level (Section 5.03). Treatment is individualized and progress is assessed during a Treatment Plan Review (TPR), which occurs every two to three months

³ Pre-plea matters are not subject to the purview of the DVOMB Standards.

⁴ C.R.S.18-6-801(1)(b), *Partners in Change v. Domestic Violence Offender Management Board*, within the Division of Criminal Justice of the Department of Public Safety of the State of Colorado, Case Number 06cv10083

⁵ C.R.S. 18-6-801(1)(a)

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(Section 5.07). The degree to which an offender progresses in treatment and remains compliant is based on meeting goals associated with the core competencies rather than the passage of a specific amount of time or sessions (Section 5.08).

- III. Progress through treatment and victim safety is monitored by the Multi-Disciplinary Treatment Team (MTT) consisting of the Approved Provider, the supervising officer, a Treatment Victim Advocate (Section 7.0), and any other adjunct member of the MTT (Section 5.02). The MTT communicates regularly and shares information about the offender during the course of treatment in order to mitigate risks, support accountability, and improve victim safety. At the conclusion of treatment and as required by the Standards, an offender can be discharged as complete, unsuccessful, or administratively (Section 5.09).

Figure 1. Overview of Offender Treatment

