

# PROBATION PRACTICES FOR PROMOTING OFFENDER ACCOUNTABILITY AND ASSESSING RISK

Nigel Reynolds,  
High Risk Domestic Violence Probation Officer  
Dallas, TX

# APPA Guidelines for Domestic Violence

- Guideline 1: Community corrections programs and professionals develop active partnerships with domestic violence advocates and other justice system and community organizations and personnel working with offenders or victims to better understand domestic violence and unite in common efforts to promote victim safety.
- Guideline 7: Community corrections professionals identify and investigate for the presence of known risk factors for domestic violence re-abuse and danger.

# APPA Guidelines Continued:

- Guideline 28: Community corrections professionals validate the experiences of domestic violence victims, provide encouragement and assistance to victims, promote their safety, and actively support each victim's right to autonomy and self-determination.
- Guideline 38: There is regular communication between batterer intervention program personnel and community corrections officers regarding attendance, participation, and progress of offenders in these programs. Community corrections professionals respond immediately when offenders fail to comply with court-ordered program attendance and participation

# DV Court Compliance: Probation and Risk Assessment

## Key Implementation Considerations:

- What information do Probation officers need regarding risk?
- Who can give them that information?
- Do probation officers use screening tools to identify dv risk?
- Supervision Strategies: How do you manage high risk offenders?
- What information do you share with the court and when?
- Accountability Strategies: Compliance Reporting and Protocols
- How does Probation ensure victim safety?

# Gun Confiscation

- “Gun owners and domestic abusers: You can’t be both”.
- “Gun owners and domestic abusers: You can’t be both”.
- The most comprehensive effort in Texas to take guns away from abusers.
- 60 percent of intimate-partner homicides are committed with a gun.
- Bench Card for Judges

# Probation Supervision of High Risk Offenders: The Dallas Domestic Violence Court Model

- Supervision: How Often? Home visits?
- What happens when I meet with the probationer?
- What are the probation conditions for high risk domestic violence probationers?
- What contact do I have with victims?
- Staffing of cases: Who is at those meetings and what information is shared?
- What sanctions do I have?

# Accountability in Practice:

## BIPP Journal Entry

**YOUR BIPP JOURNAL MUST INCLUDE ALL OF THE FOLLOWING IN EACH JOURNAL ENTRY:**

- ❑ **THE TOPIC: THIS IS WHATEVER WAS DISCUSSED IN CLASS. IF THERE ARE MULTIPLE TOPICS IN CLASS INCLUDE THEM. IF THE TOPIC IS A CLASS EXERCISE THEN TALK ABOUT THE EXERCISE. IF THE TOPIC IS A VIDEO TALK, ABOUT THE VIDEO. ETC...**
- ❑ **WHAT WERE YOUR THOUGHTS AND FEELINGS?**
- ❑ **PLEASE TALK ABOUT EACH TOPIC. IF THERE ARE MULTIPLE TOPICS, TALK ABOUT EACH ONE. I LIKED THE TOPIC OR I THOUGHT THIS WAS A GOOD TOPIC IS NOT ENOUGH!**
- ❑ **HOW DOES THIS APPLY TO YOUR LIFE?**
- ❑ **WHAT ARE YOU GOING TO DO WITH THIS INFORMATION? WHERE WILL YOU USE IT? HOW WILL YOU USE IT?**
- ❑ **TRY AND WRITE OUT COMPLETE THOUGHTS. I SHOULD BE ABLE TO READ AND UNDERSTAND WHAT HAPPENED IN CLASS AND YOUR THOUGHTS AND FEELING BASED ON YOUR WRITINGS. BRING YOUR BIPP JOURNAL EACH WEEK AT YOUR PROBATION MEETING. YOUR BIPP JOURNAL MUST BE COMPLETED BEFORE YOU COME TO REPORT.**

# CASE STUDY: HIGH RISK PROBATIONER

- Case Overview
- Risk Factors
- Probation Supervision
- Court Compliance
- Programming
- Sanctioning
- Outcome



# Contact Information

Nigel Reynolds

High Risk Domestic Violence Caseload

County Criminal Court #10

133 N. Riverfront Blvd., 8th Fl.

Dallas, TX 75207

214-875-4953 (Phone)

[Nigel.Reynolds@dallascounty.org](mailto:Nigel.Reynolds@dallascounty.org)

