

Senate Bill 44

Introduction

The Texas Council on Family Violence (TCFV) pursued the passage of this legislation in order to establish a system that would create a mechanism through which all individuals or programs working with family violence offenders would need to be accredited as functioning in compliance with the Battering Intervention and Prevention Project (BIPP) Guidelines. You may obtain a copy of these guidelines at www.tdcj.state.tx.us/cjad/cjad-home.htm under the fact sheets and publications section or by contacting Eduardo Montiel at 512-463-9465.

Senate Bill 44

This bill relates to the provision of intervention or counseling services to certain persons who have committed family violence and to a process for accrediting those services.

Beginning **September 1, 2008**, if a court grants community supervision to a person convicted of an offense involving family violence, as defined by Section 71.004, Texas Family Code, the court may require the defendant, at the direction of the community supervision and corrections department officer, to attend either a:

1. Battering Intervention and Prevention Program, defined by Texas Code of Criminal Procedure, Article 42.141;
or
2. A program or provider that has begun the accreditation process.

If an accredited program or provider is not available, the defendant may attend counseling sessions with a licensed counselor, social worker or other professional who has completed family violence intervention training that is approved by the Texas Department of Criminal Justice -Community Justice Assistance Division (TDCJ-CJAD).

Beginning **September 1, 2009**, a BIPP program or provider serving as a referral option for the courts must be accredited.

Adoption of the Battering Intervention and Prevention Project Guidelines

No later than **April 1, 2008**, TDCJ-CJAD shall adopt guidelines required by Section 4A, Article 42.141, Texas Code of Criminal Procedure and shall accredit programs and providers providing battering intervention and prevention services that are conforming to those guidelines.

Before adopting program guidelines, the licensing authorities described by Chapters 152, 501, 502, 503, and 505, Texas Occupations Code¹, will be notified by TDCJ-CJAD that it is considering adopting program guidelines and invite the licensing authorities to comment on the program guidelines.

TDCJ-CJAD and TCFV are in the process of identifying which Battering Intervention and Prevention Project (BIPP) Guidelines will be adopted for use with the accreditation of programs that provide direct services to family violence offenders.

TDCJ-CJAD and TCFV are accomplishing this task through committees comprised of professionals from Community Supervision and Corrections Departments, TDCJ-Parole Division, family violence advocates, batterers programs, and the licensing authorities of Chapters 152, 501, 502, 503, and 505 of the Texas Occupations Code.

¹Texas Occupations Code: 152 – State Board of Medical Examiners, 501 – Psychologists, 502 – Marriage & Family Therapists, 503 – Licensed Professional Counselors, and 505 – Social Workers.

Accreditation Process

TDCJ-CJAD is also in the process of adopting an accreditation process to begin **September 1, 2008**. This task is also being accomplished through committees comprised of professionals from Community Supervision and Corrections Departments, TDCJ-Parole Division, family violence advocates, batterers programs, and the licensing authorities of chapters 152, 501, 502, 503, and 505 of the Texas Occupations Code.

Currently, TDCJ-CJAD funds 27 Battering Intervention & Prevention Programs. They are located in the following jurisdictions:

County	Program	Telephone #
Bastrop	Adult Violence Intervention Program	512-321-7760
Bell	Diversified Family Counseling Services, Inc.	254-690-2004
Bexar	Violence Intervention Program	210-930-3669
Bowie	Domestic Violence Prevention	903-794-4000
Cameron	Friendship of Women, Inc.-BIPP	956-546-6694
Collin	Hopes Door-BIPP	972-422-2911
Dallas	The Family Place-BIPP	214-692-8295
Dallas	New Beginning Center-BIPP	972-276-0423
Denton	Denton County Friends of the Family, Inc.-BIPP	940-387-5131
El Paso	Center Against Family Violence-BIPP	915-562-0077
Fort Bend	Wholistic Counseling Services, Inc.	281-403-0838
Grayson	Domestic Abuse Intervention Project	903-892-8595
Hale	Hale County Crisis Center, Inc.-BIPP	806-293-9772
Harris	Battering Intervention Services of AVDA	713-224-9911
Hidalgo	Women Together, Inc.-Men Against Violence	956-664-2865
Hutchison	Panhandle Crisis Center-BIPP	806-435-5008
Jefferson	Violence Intervention & Education	409-833-2668
Kerr	Hill Country Crisis Council-FOCUS	830-257-7088
Lamar	Family Haven Crisis & Resource Center-BIPP	903-784-6901
Lubbock	Women's Protective Services-BIPP	806-748-5292
Midland	Project ADAM	432-522-2700
Nueces	Women's Shelter of South Texas-BIPP	361-884-2900
Potter	Family Support Services-BIPP	806-342-2500
Smith	Violence Intervention Network	903-579-2500
Tarrant	SafeHaven of Tarrant County-BIPP	817-536-3809
Travis	LifeWorks-Family Violence Diversion Network	512-735-2100
Victoria	Mid-Coast Family Services-BIPP	361-575-7842