



## Family Violence Intervention Programs

*What is a Family Violence Intervention Program (FVIP), and what is the process for certification?*

### Objectives of GCFV

- Certify and Monitor Family Violence Intervention Programs in Georgia
- Produce Annual Domestic Violence Fatality Review Report
- Provide Technical Assistance to Family Violence Task Forces in Georgia
- Host Annual Domestic Violence Conference
- Provide Legislative and Policy Advocacy
- Develop plans to address domestic violence in Georgia

### Intimate Partner Violence

- Intimate partner violence (IPV) is defined as threatened, attempted, or completed physical or sexual violence or emotional abuse by a current or former intimate partner. IPV can be committed by a spouse, an ex-spouse, a current or former boyfriend or girlfriend, or a dating partner.
- Domestic violence
- Family violence

### Georgia Commission on Family Violence

In 1992, the Georgia General Assembly created the Georgia Commission on Family Violence (GCFV) to develop a comprehensive state plan for ending domestic violence in Georgia. The Commission consists of legislators, judges, advocates, law enforcement, medical professionals, educators, and concerned citizens.

### What is an FVIP?

- Family Violence Intervention Program (FVIP)
- Certified and monitored by GCFV
- 24 week educational program for perpetrators of family violence
- [FVIP SOP; Rules](#)
- Holds participants accountable for using physical, sexual and emotional violence against their partners
- One piece of a larger coordinated community (CCR) response to end domestic violence



### Coordinated Community Response (CCR)

- Key to FVIP success – a program is only as effective as the system within which it works
- Partnerships with domestic violence agencies, probation, law enforcement, court systems, and the community at large
- Certified program rules are based on establishing a strong CCR





## FVIP Program Structure

- 24 Weeks
- Each class is at least 90 minutes long
- Victims may not participate in any way
- Classes cannot mix gender
- 8:1 participant/facilitator ratio

## FVIP is NOT Counseling or Therapy

| FVIP   | Counseling/Support Group  |
|--|---|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Approved facilitator</li> <li>• No confidentiality</li> <li>• Educational curriculum</li> <li>• Accountability</li> <li>• Victim safety is #1 priority</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Licensed therapist</li> <li>• Confidential</li> <li>• Therapeutic</li> <li>• Client progress is #1 priority</li> </ul> |

## FVIP is NOT Anger Management

| FVIP   | Anger Management  |
|--|---|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Victims are intimate partners</li> <li>• Relevant statute:                             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• O.C.G.A. 19-13-16(a)</li> <li>• O.C.G.A. 19-13-10 et. al.</li> <li>• O.C.G.A. 19-13-4</li> </ul> </li> <li>• State certified</li> <li>• 24 weeks</li> <li>• Victim safety/coordinated community response</li> <li>• Challenging belief systems</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Victims could be anyone</li> <li>• No statewide certifying body or oversight</li> <li>• Average 12 weeks</li> <li>• No required victim safety policies or procedures</li> <li>• Teaching how to control anger/emotions; better communication skills</li> </ul> |

## Goals of a FVIP Class

- ✓ Take responsibility for abusing partner and children
- ✓ Support gender equality
- ✓ Overcome minimizing, denying and blaming
- ✓ Strive for partnership within relationships
- ✓ Work on changing their belief system that gives them authority to use domestic violence
- ✓ Teach participants to provide feedback to each other
- ✓ Make choices that are not abusive
- ✓ Realize the impact of using violence on their partner, their children and themselves.

## Women in FVIP

- Women do perpetrate domestic violence, but at much lower rates than men
- Why women use violence:
  - Retaliation
  - An attempt to regain control
  - Choose when violence will occur
  - Domination against children
- Most facilitators find that women court ordered to FVIP are victims of domestic violence who have also used violence
- 14% of Georgia's FVIP participants in 2014 were women
- Use curriculum specific to women



## FVIP Curriculum Requirements

- Educational model, not therapy or treatment.
- Focus on:
  - **Power & Control** – identifies and challenges participants on their use of violence
  - **Beliefs & Social Context** – identifies and challenges personal beliefs and social contexts that support their use of power & control
  - **Effects** – identify consistently and hold participants accountable for the effects of their violence on victim and family.
- Holds participants accountable for past, present and future use of violence



## Curriculum Options

- Domestic Abuse Intervention Programs  
<http://www.theduluthmodel.org/>
- Men at Work: Building Safe Communities  
Men Stopping Violence  
<http://www.menstoppingviolence.org/>
- Emerge  
[www.emergedv.com](http://www.emergedv.com)
- Turning Points: A Nonviolence Curriculum for Women  
[www.dvturningpoints.com](http://www.dvturningpoints.com)

## Prohibited Program Activities

- Intervention that blames or suggests that a victim caused or provoked the violence
- Intervention that does not clearly state that the participant bears sole responsibility for his choices
- Couples, marriage or family therapy treatment
- Individual therapy or treatment
- Permitting victims to attend or participate in class
- Issuing graduation certificates
- Assessment tools for court or probation purposes which attempt to predict future use of violence

## Victim Safety Requirement

- ✓ FVIPs must have a written agreement with Victim Liaison organization to contact the victim according to the Department's Standard Operating Procedures.
- ✓ FVIPs must participate in a community task force on family violence.
- ✓ FVIPs must notify all referring sources including Victim Liaison Organizations within 4 days of participant joining or completing program, within 2 days of participant's termination from program for non-compliance.
- ✓ FVIP may initiate a contact with a victim of the FVIP participant through a paid, subcontracted victim liaison, unless the FVIP has a duty to warn.
- ✓ [Victim Contact SOP](#)

## Keeping Victim Safety First:

- Victim has access to advocates, safety planning, & support
- She knows where her abuser is for 1.5 hours a week
- Message to victim: "You are not responsible for his behavior!"
- Can be a measurement of the abuser's willingness to change
- Documentation of noncompliance
- The system and community is making it clear that violent/controlling behavior is not acceptable

## Steps to Certification



The program, or firm, is certified, not the individual facilitator

Two requirement categories: firm and facilitator



Firms re-certify every two years

## Firm Requirements

|   |  |
|---|--|
| Participant Contract                    | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>•Details of program structure (flow, duration, attendance policy, non-compliance and termination)</li> <li>•Confidentiality waiver</li> <li>•Informed consent</li> <li>•Informed response from the home</li> <li>•Absence from program and alcohol</li> <li>•Victim right to have relationship</li> </ul> |
| Participant Completion/Termination Form | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>•Referral source</li> <li>•Participant name</li> <li>•Completion or termination date and reason for termination</li> </ul>  |
| Victim Liaison Contract                 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>•Informed terms</li> <li>•Signatures of both partners and dates</li> <li>•Termination requirements for notification</li> </ul>  |
| General Liability Insurance             | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>•Expiration date</li> <li>•Coverage of at least \$1million</li> </ul>   |

## Firm Requirements

|  |   |
|--|---|
| Owner's Secure and Verifiable Document | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>•Must be uploaded with certification and re-certification applications</li> <li>•State issued ID, passport, etc.</li> </ul>    |
| Owner's Affidavit                      | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>•Must be uploaded with certification and re-certification applications</li> </ul>  |
| Locations                              | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>•Provide at least one class location per judicial circuit</li> <li>•Classes must be at least 90 minutes in duration</li> </ul> |
| Staff List                             | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>•Employ at least one person who meets all facilitator requirements</li> </ul>  |
| Payment                                | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>•\$150 for each judicial circuit where classes are held</li> </ul>   |

## Facilitator Requirements



## Facilitator Requirements

- Degree**
  - Undergraduate degree or at least 2 years of equivalent experience involving batterers and victims or victim advocates
- Criminal Background Check**
  - Completed and signed background check authorization form
- Personal Identification Information**

## Georgia Courts Registrar



## Georgia Courts Registrar



For additional information please visit our  
website:  
[www.gcfv.org](http://www.gcfv.org)

**Thank you!**

