

1 **Minimum Standards for**
2 **Domestic Violence**
3 **Offender Intervention**
4 **Programs in Idaho**

5 Edition 2021-1

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64 **I. Overview**

65 The Idaho Council on Domestic Violence & Victim Assistance (ICDVVA) was created by
66 the Legislature in 1982 to address the disruptive influence of domestic violence on society,
67 provide protection and refuge for victims, and provide funding for victim service programs
68 throughout the State. I.C. § 395201. For budgetary purposes and for administrative support
69 purposes, the Council is assigned by the governor to a department or office within the State per
70 I.C. § 39-5203(2). Currently ICDVVA is assigned to the Department of Health & Welfare for
71 those purposes but is otherwise an independent agency.

72 ICDVVA oversees Offender Intervention Programs (OIPs) in Idaho via The Committee for
73 Oversight of Domestic Violence Offender Intervention Programs and Standards (The
74 Committee). Idaho Code, § 18-918(7)(d), enacted in 1998, provides the Idaho Council on
75 Domestic Violence and Victim Assistance responsibility to set standards for counseling and
76 treatment ordered for individuals convicted of domestic violence or to those who volunteer to
77 attend. This document is meant to provide insight and information regarding the requirements
78 for obtaining program approval from the Committee.

79 The Committee meets quarterly to review new and renewal program applications,
80 provide monitoring for all approved programs, respond to complaints, provide training and
81 support to programs and to recommend amendments to the standards for consideration by the
82 Council.

83 Idaho law uses the terms “treatment or counseling”; however, current practice suggests
84 that “intervention” is a more commonly used term and incorporates counseling as a
85 component of treatment. A list of programs meeting current standards and approved by the
86 ICDVVA, pertinent legislation, and application forms are available at: www.icdv.idaho.gov or call
87 208.332.1540.

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Our Mission

- To ensure victims of domestic violence, sexual assault, child abuse and other violent crimes in Idaho have access to quality victim services which adequately address their needs and help them heal from trauma.

Our Vision

- Victims of violent crime should have easy & reliable access to necessary help, shelter, and support, wherever they are located.

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In 2021 the Council appointed the Committee for OIP Oversight to review, revise, and recommend updates to the minimum standards for Idaho OIPs. An extensive literature review was conducted followed by focus groups, community, and stakeholder engagement. These new minimum standards provide an agreed upon framework for OIP providers in the State of Idaho as well as serve as a reference for new program applicants.

101 II. Statement of Purpose

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103 **Domestic Violence (DV)** is generally defined as a behavior of choice by an individual for which
104 they carry responsibility. Therefore, through intervention, one can learn new attitudes,
105 behavioral, and cognitive skills that lead to choosing positive behaviors and reducing violence.

106 The goals of these standards are to increase victim safety by holding offenders
107 accountable for their crime(s), participating in a coordinated community response, teaching
108 healthy relationships, and provide program monitoring. See also Figure 1.

109 The ICDVVA recognizes that DV offender intervention is an evolving field, where new
110 and promising developments are being explored. Victim and community safety should guide
111 the coordinated community response to domestic violence. Thus, whenever the needs of DV
112 offenders in intervention are likely to conflict with victim and community safety, victim and
113 community safety must take precedence.

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118 **III. Program Information**

119 Domestic violence offender intervention programs shall be specifically designed to work
120 with those who are court ordered to attend. However, services may also be provided to those
121 who elect to participate on a voluntary basis. The following describes the basic elements that
122 must be included in an approved program.

123 **A. Intervention Philosophy**

- 124 1. **Defines domestic violence** as any abusive, violent, coercive, forceful, or threatening
125 act or word inflicted by one member of a family or a household member on another
126 along a broad spectrum of behavior from a one-time incident to a pattern of
127 coercion that might include physical, emotional, psychological, verbal, sexual, or
128 economic abuse or property damage.
- 129 2. **Defines domestic assault** or battery as a crime.
- 130 3. **Holds offenders accountable** to their provisions of probation/parole, as applicable.
- 131 4. **Requires** an intervention plan with priority to end abuse and establish a basis for
132 safety.
- 133 5. **Holds offenders accountable** to provisions of orders of protection as applicable.
- 134 6. **Holds offenders accountable** for their crime and teaches that it is the responsibility
135 of that individual to accept the consequences.
- 136 7. **Promotes changing attitudes** toward intimate partners and other family members
137 and violence in the family.
- 138 8. **Recognizes, accepts, and teaches** that domestic violence has multiple causatives
139 and contributing factors.
- 140 9. **Recognizes, accepts, and teaches** that the conduct of a victim does not excuse the
141 choice to use violence by the offender.
- 142 10. **Recognizes, accepts, and teaches** that domestic violence is complex and requires
143 on-going comprehensive assessment for effective intervention.

- 144 11. **Recognizes, accepts, and teaches** that substance use disorder treatment, anger
145 management, and mental health treatment are not substitutes for domestic
146 violence offender intervention though they may be used in conjunction with DV OIP.
- 147 12. **Recognizes, accepts, and teaches** that under no circumstances should an OIP
148 provider refer or provide couples counseling to a court-ordered offender. Couples
149 counseling is not a replacement for DV OIP.
- 150 13. **Recognizes that the intervention** must be based on the intake assessment of the
151 offender, the domestic violence evaluation (if completed), and the nature of
152 violence.
- 153 14. **Recognizes and respects** the decision of a family to remain together as a valid choice
154 when safety is the priority.
- 155 15. **Recognizes, accepts, and teaches** the idea that DV has an impact on individuals,
156 families, and communities.
- 157 16. **Recognizes, accepts, and teaches** that there are many different intervention
158 modalities (sometimes called treatment modalities) that are available for use.
159 Modalities should be as individualized as able according to the offender's evaluation,
160 court recommendations (if any), risk assessment, crime(s), and current research, and
161 provider training.

162 **B. Curriculum Minimum Standards**

- 163 1. Offender personal accountability
- 164 2. Social, cultural, and familial foundations of domestic violence and abuse
- 165 3. Role of family and others in addressing long term patterns of violence
- 166 4. Confronts power and control tactics
- 167 5. Awareness and application of self-control including management of anger and
168 management of stress

- 169 6. Impact of their abuse on partners, other individuals, families, and communities
170 7. Equality in relationships (gender, sex, identities)
171 8. Equality and safety in relationships
172 9. Gender stereotyping
173 10. Communication skills
174 11. Relapse prevention
175 12. Peaceful conflict resolution

176 **C. Telecommunication**

177 Telecommunication is one tool that may be utilized in OIPs. Please refer to the
178 Telecommunication Policy.

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180 **D. Intervention Requirements**

- 181 1. Intervention shall be provided by an approved provider.
182 2. All providers are required to obtain continuing education as outlined later in this
183 document.
184 3. ✨ Providers should assess the client's need with respect after reviewing DV
185 evaluation and use of collateral data including but not limited to previous DV
186 evaluations, police reports, pre-sentence reports, victim impact statements, and risk
187 assessments. Sessions are generally weekly and occur over the course of a minimum
188 of 52 weeks (unless court ordered to 26 weeks) .
189 4. An intake session is not considered an intervention session.
190 5. Careful on-going assessment by the intervention staff of the circumstances of each
191 case will be necessary to determine and implement an intervention plan.
192 6. Documentation must be maintained in each case of the determination of
193 intervention plan and offender progress, including sessions attended. i.e. a sign-in
194 sheet, at minimum.
195 7. Providers should utilize current peer-reviewed literature, professional peer groups,
196 case studies/case reports, and professional training to inform program curricula.

- 197 8. Individual, family, and community cultural considerations should be evaluated when
198 considering intervention modality for the offender while considering victim safety
199 above all else.
- 200 9. For group intervention, group size shall not exceed twelve individuals, including
201 telecommunication attendees. A second facilitator is highly recommended if group
202 size exceeds eight individuals.
- 203 10. Program curriculum should be readily available to share with CODVIPS at any time.
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205 IV. Program Requirements

206 A. Co-occurring Mental Health/Substance Abuse/Chemical Dependency

207 If the initial or on-going evaluation evidences mental health issues, substance abuse
208 and/or chemical dependency, this shall be addressed. Appropriate testing may be used
209 when indicated as a condition of continuation in an intervention program. Referral to other
210 agencies for specialized intervention may be initiated in those circumstances.

211 B. Intake

- 212 1. Programs must provide a written contract regarding offender rights, responsibilities,
213 and limits of confidentiality. See "Offender Contract".
- 214 2. The intake shall be completed in a 1:1 meeting of the offender and the intervention
215 staff, in person or via telecommunication. See also telecommunication policy.
- 216 3. ✨ A written release may be obtained from the offender to allow notification to
217 agencies, victims, current partners, and/or individuals as necessary to support
218 intervention and requirements of court orders. However, it is not required as OIP is
219 not governed by HIPPA.
- 220 4. OIP providers will have contact with other agencies, victims, current partners.
221 Confidentiality as it relates to protected health information does not apply to OIP.
- 222 5. ✨ A written release may be obtained from the offender authorizing intervention
223 staff to notify any person whose safety appears to be at risk including, but not
224 limited to, the victim, family member(s), victim advocates, law enforcement, and/or
225 other providers.

- 226 6. The intervention providers must be available to the offender to begin intervention
227 within two weeks of a court ordered referral. The intervention staff must contact the
228 referring agency if unable to accept the offender within two weeks of referral.
- 229 7. All contact between the offender and the intervention staff must be documented in
230 the offender's file.
- 231 8. The intervention staff shall inform the offender regarding process, expectations, and
232 limitations of intervention; the reporting policies of the program and other rules of
233 confidentiality. Victims and/or partners will be informed that attendance in the
234 program does not guarantee an offender will not be violent.

235 **C. Offender Contract**

- 236 1. Obtain Informed Consent
- 237 2. Intake and consent shall include a written contract
- 238 3. Signed by the offender and staff, with copies to each
- 239 4. Upon request, a copy shall be provided to the court, prosecutor, probation office
240 and victim. Contract shall include:
- 241 a. Program statement of philosophy
- 242 b. Statement regarding program development of intervention plan and
243 modifications of such
- 244 c. Notification to the offender that the intervention program is monitored by the
245 ICDVVA with contact information provided
- 246 d. Attendance policies, including requirements for cancellation and consequences
247 for lack of attendance
- 248 e. Active participation requirements. Written, oral, and otherwise
- 249 f. Substance abuse/chemical dependency policies, including the requirement that
250 the offender attend the sessions alcohol and drug free and be subject to random
251 testing for substance use
- 252 g. Protection of group members' privacy and consequences for any breach
- 253 h. Fees/methods of payment and any consequences of non-payment

- 254 i. Collateral contacts may be made to monitor behavior during the course of
255 intervention
- 256 j. Be given notice that recurring domestic violence and past, present, and future
257 indications of child neglect or abuse will be reported to the necessary agencies,
258 and that potential victim(s) will be warned
- 259 k. Other program expectations, such as written exams, active participation,
260 concurrent intervention requirements, and state and federal laws regarding
261 possession of weapons
- 262 l. Limits of confidentiality
- 263 m. Adherence to state and federal mandates requiring immediate reporting of
264 threats of harm to self or others, and immediately inform the victim or any
265 person if it is believed they may be at risk
- 266 n. The requirement that the court, prosecuting attorney, probation department, or
267 victim shall be informed about an offender's attendance and participation
268 and/or any violation of the conditions of probation if the criminal justice system
269 is involved

270 **D. Discharge criteria**


- 271 1. The program will include documented discharge criteria in the intervention plan.
- 272 2. An offender may be discharged from a program for compliance or administrative
273 reasons.
- 274 3. The victim and current partner shall be contacted to inform them of the offenders
275 impending discharge from the program.
- 276 4. Offenders participating in a program which loses ICCDVA approval status may get
277 credit for sessions attended in that program to the point the approval was
278 discontinued and may transfer to another approved program.
- 279 5. **Compliance Discharge** shall be given when completion of the program is achieved
280 with no recommendation for further intervention.
- 281 a. Including adherence to all stipulations in the Offender Contract (See "Offender
282 Contract" Section XXX)

- 283 b. Referral to another program.
- 284 c. The program retains the discretion to make determinations about the
- 285 appropriate services to be provided to offenders transferring from their original
- 286 point of service. When an offender transfers into intervention from another
- 287 provider, a plan new or continuing plan of care must be established.
- 288 6. **Administrative discharges** shall be given due to non-compliance with the program’s
- 289 policies and procedures. Non-compliance may include, but not be limited to:
- 290 a. Any non-adherence to Offender Contract (See “Offender Contract”)
- 291 b. Criminal or violent behavior(s)
- 292 c. Failure to report criminal or violent behavior
- 293 d. Alcohol or drug abuse
- 294 e. Demonstrated lack of participation
- 295 f. Not meeting program financial obligations
- 296 g. Failure to participate in recommended services, therapies, or other interventions
- 297 h. Failure to provide requested information; and
- 298 i. Violations of protection, no contact and/or restraining order.
- 299 j. Under administrative discharge, the program ***shall immediately notify*** in writing
- 300 any known partner and victim, the court, probation, prosecution, or other
- 301 individual or agency which mandated the offender into the program and
- 302 document the reason(s) for discharge.
- 303 k. If the offender continues to exhibit signs of violence at the time that discharge is
- 304 being considered, the program must adhere to state and federal mandates
- 305 requiring immediate reporting of threats of harm to self or others.
- 306 **1. Evaluation**
- 307 a. The intervention program shall have a clear plan in place for obtaining and
- 308 reporting data related to program outcomes developed and required by the
- 309 Committee.
- 310
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312 V. Provider Requirements

313 A. General Guidelines

314 1. Individuals who work in an approved domestic violence offender intervention
315 program are referred to as Program Supervisors, Direct Service Providers, or
316 Trainees. These can be either paid or volunteer staff persons who provide direct
317 services.

318 2.  Intervention staff must have documented professional and continuing education
319 regarding intimate partner abuse, child abuse, sexual and emotional abuse, elder
320 abuse, psychopathology, substance abuse/chemical dependency issues and the legal
321 system as it applies to violent relationships, intervention and recovery methods,
322 current literature and research in the field; must be aware of and responsive to how
323 the issues of power and control relate to abusive behavior and that issues of
324 classism, cultural bias, , racism, sexism, heterosexism, and gender identity may need
325 to be addressed.

326 3. The program shall establish and implement policies, procedures, and supervision
327 schedules ensuring adequate supervision for all intervention staff.

328 4. At the time an approved program adds a new Program Supervisor, Direct Service
329 Provider, or Trainee, either volunteer or paid, the program must submit
330 documentation to the Committee of meeting the minimum qualifications. Program
331 Supervisor or Direct Service Providers may not provide sole direct services to
332 offenders until the qualifications have been reviewed and approved by the
333 Committee Chairperson pending consideration by the entire committee at its'
334 subsequent meeting.

335 5. Providers shall demonstrate specific knowledge of their legal and ethical
336 responsibilities to protect victims and potential victims and to report child abuse.

337 They must have specific education and experience in domestic violence group
338 dynamics and group process.

339 6. Providers shall be free of criminal convictions, criminal conviction probation or
340 parole including withheld judgements or section 19-2604 Idaho code relief,
341 protection orders, and substance abuse or dependence in their own lives for a
342 minimum of five years prior to becoming a Program Supervisor, Direct Service
343 Provider, or Trainee.

344 7. Direct services are to be provided by a Program Supervisor or Direct Service Provider
345 only. A Trainee may participate in direct service provision under on-site supervision
346 only.

347 **B. Program Supervisor**

348 1. Each program shall have a Program Supervisor (PS)

349 2. Each program will maintain a position description for the PS

350 3. Program Supervisors must meet these criterion

351 a. Hold a master's or Doctorate Degree from an accredited university/college in
352 counseling, psychology, social work, or related field.

353 b. Must be licensed in their respective field.

354 c. Completed a minimum of sixty (60) hours of education including and not
355 limited to:

356 1. Domestic violence from victim/advocate service programs in Idaho

357 2. Topics from this document under Continuing Education

- 358 3. The Committee reserves the right to reject education that does not
359 appear to be from a qualified source or appears duplicative when
360 considering this provision
- 361 4. An applicant who fails to meet the “broad range of topics” requirement
362 but otherwise shows sixty (60) hours of education in the field may be
363 granted a provisional approval pending additional education
- 364 5. Have completed a minimum of five hundred (500) hours of supervised
365 intervention experience including:
- 366 a. A minimum of two hundred fifty (250) hours of supervised
367 education and/or experience that is directly related to counseling
368 offenders and domestic violence victims, as well as working with
369 domestic violence victim advocacy services.
 - 370 b. A minimum of two hundred fifty (250) hours of supervised direct
371 intervention with offenders in an Idaho, or other state approved
372 offender intervention program, which includes a minimum of fifty
373 (50) hours supervised experience in offender group facilitation.
 - 374 c. Supervision requires direct on-site observed one-on-one
375 supervision; one hour for every 20 hours for the above total
376 requirements. (At least one hour will be direct on-site observed)

377 **C. Direct Service Provider (DSP)**

- 378 1. Each program will maintain a position description for the DPS(s)
- 379 2. DSPs must meet these criteria:
- 380 3. Hold an earned bachelor's degree from an accredited university/college in a
- 381 behavioral science-related field or equivalent work-related experience
- 382 4. Sixty hours (60), minimum education:
- 383 a. Domestic violence from victim/advocate service programs in Idaho
- 384 b. Topics from this document under Continuing Education
- 385 c. The Committee reserves the right to reject education that does not appear to be
- 386 from a qualified source or appears duplicative when considering this provision.
- 387 a. One hundred fifty (150) hours minimum of supervised intervention
- 388 experience including
- 389 b. Seventy-five (75) hours minimum of supervised direct intervention
- 390 contact with offenders.
- 391 c. Seventy-five (75) hours minimum of supervised direct contact with
- 392 domestic violence victims through an established advocacy program.

393 **D. Trainees**

- 394 1. A Trainee is a paid or volunteer staff person who has not completed the minimum
- 395 requirements.
- 396 2. Must hold related behavioral science degree or be working toward a degree in a
- 397 related field.

398 3. Trainee(s) may serve as a co-facilitator of groups with a Direct Services Provider or
399 Program Supervisor but may not facilitate a group alone.

400 4. An individual may be considered a Trainee for no more than two (2) years unless
401 exceptional circumstances are demonstrated, and provisional approval of the
402 Council is granted, subject to additional requirements.

403 **E. Continuing Education**

404 1. Intervention programs are required to maintain written records of continuing
405 education units for Program Supervisors, Direct Service Providers, and Trainees

406 2. Continuing education requirements include:

407 a. Sixty (60) hours of continuing education (through an approved CEU provider)
408 are required every three (3) years from the date of the initial intervention
409 program approval by the Committee for all Program Supervisors and Direct
410 Service Providers. Trainees who work for over a year in any particular
411 intervention program shall be required to meet the same continuing
412 education requirements as a Program Supervisor or Direct Service Providers.
413 No more than five (5) of those hours may be obtained by attending “in-
414 house” educational sessions.

415 b. Continuing professional education may be obtained through classes,
416 seminars, workshops, or webinars. No more than thirty hours (30) of self-
417 study programs may be used toward the requirement of sixty (60) hours of
418 continuing education.

419 **VI. Ethics**

420 A. Intervention staff and volunteers in approved programs must meet standards outlined
421 by professional group(s) such as the American Psychological Association, National
422 Association of Social Workers, American Association of Pastoral Counselors, the

423 American Psychiatrist Association, the American Counseling Association or other as
424 appropriate to professional practice.

425 B. Intervention staff and volunteers are required to adhere to the following:

426 1. Respect the dignity of all offenders

427 2. Program policies regarding confidentiality

428 3. Not engage in intimate relationships with an offender or offender's immediate
429 family, or the victim or the victim's immediate family

430 4. Not engage in any activity, personal, business or other with an offender or an
431 offender's immediate family, or a victim or the victim's immediate family

432 5. Not engage in any activity, person, business, or other activity that conflicts with the
433 purposes of the program including social media and/or internet presence that is
434 contrary to the combatting domestic violence.

435 6. Pursuant to Idaho Code, Section 18-918, if counseling or other treatment is ordered,
436 in no event shall the person, agency or organization doing the evaluation be the
437 person, agency or organization that provides the counseling or other intervention
438 unless this requirement is waived by the sentencing court, with the exception of

- 439 federally recognized Indian tribes or federal military installations, where diagnosis
440 and intervention are appropriate and available
- 441 7. Adhere to state and federal mandates requiring immediate reporting of threats of
442 harm to self or others. Immediately inform the victim or any person if it is believed
443 they may be at risk
- 444 8. Abide by state child abuse/neglect reporting statutes
- 445 9. Make mental health and drug/alcohol intervention referrals as appropriate
- 446 10. Maintain a program protocol for victim contact
- 447 11. Encourage open communication with agencies/personnel involved in the offender's
448 program
- 449 12. Be free of substance abuse or dependence in their own lives for five years prior to
450 becoming staff or a volunteer, and remain so
- 451 13. Not be convicted of any criminal action, or be a respondent in any civil protection
452 order or civil action resulting in a finding of the use or threatened use of violence for
453 a minimum of ten years including release from probation or parole including
454 withheld judgements or section 19-2604 Idaho Code relief prior to employment or
455 volunteer status, and remain so; and
- 456 14. Report, within 72 hours, to their agency any civil or criminal action in which they are
457 named as defendant or respondent with the allegation they used or threatened to
458 use violence. The agency shall forward information regarding the incident to the
459 ICDVVA within 72 hours of its notification.

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465 **VII. The Judicial System**

466 A. Approved domestic violence offender intervention programs shall have knowledge of
467 and be responsible to the judicial system. Staff shall demonstrate a current working
468 knowledge of the following:

- 469 1. State and federal laws that regulate law enforcement response to domestic violence
470 calls
- 471 2. Law enforcement, city and county prosecuting attorney policies regarding domestic
472 violence
- 473 3. The protection order process as well as how the system responds when orders have
474 been violated; and
- 475 4. Legal consequences of failure by the offender to complete mandated intervention.
- 476 5. When the offender is involved in a court-mandated domestic violence offender
477 intervention program, the staff shall exchange with the judicial system personnel
478 and other appropriate parties the following necessary information:
 - 479 a. A release of information consent form
 - 480 b. All violations of a protection order, no contact order and/or restraining order
 - 481 c. Any violation of the conditions of an intervention program or probation
 - 482 d. Monthly written offender reports including attendance, participation,
483 progress, and, as appropriate, recommendations for intervention; and
 - 484 e. Further incidents of violence, including the date(s), a brief description, and
485 the outcomes.

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488 **VIII. Program Application, Renewal, Monitoring, Appeals**

489 **A. Application and Renewal**

490 1. Application for approval as a domestic violence intervention program is to be
491 submitted to the Committee. Once a program is approved, it will be placed on the
492 ICDVVA website, and the list distributed by the Idaho Supreme Court. Each program
493 must apply for renewal every three (3) years. All programs must stay in compliance
494 with established standards.

495 2. Application and renewal forms may be obtained from the Idaho Council on
496 Domestic Violence and Victim Assistance at www.icdv.idaho.gov

497 3. Notification and Compliance:

498 a. Programs will be notified of approval within thirty (30) days of review by the
499 Committee.

500 b. If a program refuses or cannot comply with established standards, the
501 ICDVVA will notify the Idaho Supreme Court that the program is no longer on
502 the approved list effective immediately.

503 **B. Monitoring**

504 1. The ICDVVA or its designated representative will monitor all approved domestic
505 violence offender intervention programs. The Committee reserves the right to
506 establish the process of monitoring programs, including drop-in visits to any
507 intervention session. If the monitor finds any program is not in compliance with the
508 standards established herein, the ICDVVA will take appropriate steps to help bring

509 the program into compliance. A program may be placed on probationary status or
510 lose approval at any time for failure to meet established standards.

511 **C. Appeal**

512 Any program which is dissatisfied with a decision of the Committee may send its
513 objection in writing to the ICDVVA. ICDVVA staff will forward the objection to the
514 Committee. The ICDVVA will review the objection and the decision and provide an
515 opportunity for the program to be heard on the issue. A decision by the ICDVVA will be
516 issued within thirty (30) days.

517 **D. Request for Inquiry**

518 Any person may submit a written request for an inquiry concerning compliance with
519 these standards. Upon receipt of the inquiry, the ICDVVA staff shall forward the inquiry to the
520 Committee for review and action.

521 **E. Revision of Standards**

522 The ICDVVA reserves the right to amend, change or alter these standards at any time at
523 their discretion. Reasonable notice will be given.

524

525 ***All correspondence should be sent to:***

526 **Idaho Council on Domestic Violence and Victim Assistance**

527 **P.O. Box 83720**

528 **Boise, ID 83720-0036**