

START THE CHANGE
END THE VIOLENCE

Batterer Intervention Program (BIP)



Batterer Intervention Program (BIP) is the start of a transformation for people who use violence to control their partners.

1. Why order a "substantiated perpetrator in a child abuse or neglect investigation with domestic or dating violence and abuse allegations"* to a BIP program?

Abusive behavior is learned behavior. Changing any learned behavior requires more than having a desire; it takes re-education, replacement skills, and practice.

Abusive partners must learn new skills to replace their negative behavior patterns. Ordering an abusive partner to complete a BIP recognizes and provides the opportunity for that change to occur.

The structured learning environment of the BIP should be a place where the abusive partner engages in the intensive work of developing non-violent skills for building and sustaining safe relationships.

Even if an abusive partner is no longer with the survivor, BIPs can hold the person accountable.

*922 KAR 5:020 definition of "batterer"

BATTERER INTERVENTION PROGRAM BASICS:

- 1 group class per week
- 30+ week program
- Fees per class
- Ongoing enrollment

PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS:

- Screen and assess each new client
- Understand effects of domestic violence
- Learn to take personal responsibility for domestic violence
- Explore constructive, non-violent strategies to resolve interpersonal conflict
- Accountability for using violence in an intimate partner relationship

Scan the QR code or visit ZeroV.org/bip to learn more



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2. What is a certified batterer intervention program?

- Guidelines or standards for BIPs address critical procedural issues.
- Standards are established as a mechanism for quality assurance.
- Programs that do not meet their state's standards could be unsafe referral sources. You can review Kentucky's standards here:

<https://apps.legislature.ky.gov/law/kar/titles/922/005/020/>

3. What's the difference between anger management and batterer intervention?

Anger management addresses a person's anger issues. Domestic violence is not an anger issue - it is one partner's deliberate choice to employ a variety of tactics to control their partner. Anger management does not address the underlying dynamics of power and control as BIP does. Therefore, anger management programs are not effective in addressing abusive behavior. BIP focuses on issues of power and control and the underlying attitudes and beliefs that support the choices made by abusive partners.

4. Why should an abusive partner who is convicted of a first offense be ordered to complete a BIP?

Physical violence is only one aspect of domestic violence. Domestic violence is a pattern of behaviors that includes emotional, psychological, and economic abuse. Based on victim interviews as well as quantitative research, by the time an abusive partner has become physically violent, they have already established a pattern of both verbal and emotional abuse. Although the apparent "first offender" may have no history of physical assault, there is likely a history of intimidation, humiliation, isolation, threats, insults, blaming, and/or control.

5. When is couples' counseling appropriate?

Couples' counseling is expressly discouraged in most state standards for BIPs as it can be dangerous for victims of domestic violence. Therapy requires equality between parties in the relationship, and that situation does not exist when the victim cannot freely express concerns about the relationship without risking retaliation. Couples' counseling should only be considered after the successful completion of an intervention program and supportive services for the victim, and the victim must have the final, confidential voice in deciding whether it is safe to enter couples' counseling.

6. What's the cost of the program? Why is there a cost?

BIP providers offer program classes at different rates, from no cost to \$40 per class, and assessments range from no charge to \$100. BIP programs are offered by trained professionals and the cost is compensation for their time and expertise.



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