

# Sample Document: Domestic Violence Offender Program Observation Form



## ABOUT THIS SAMPLE DOCUMENT

This sample form was adapted by the Center for Court Innovation from a similar document created by the Vermont Council on Domestic Violence. The purpose of this form is to enable domestic violence court resource coordinators to gather and record information about the content, structure, and policies of mandated programs for domestic violence offenders.

## Domestic Violence Offender Program Observation Form

OBSERVER NAME & TITLE: \_\_\_\_\_

NAME OF PROGRAM: \_\_\_\_\_

LOCATION OF PROGRAM: \_\_\_\_\_

MEETING WITH PROGRAM STAFF? Y / N

NAMES/ ROLES OF STAFF (IF APPLICABLE): \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

PROGRAM OBSERVATION DATE & TIME: \_\_\_\_\_

How many sessions long is the program? \_\_\_\_\_

Was the group co-facilitated? Y / N

Male/female facilitation team? Y / N

How many participants were in the group? \_\_\_\_\_

Participants were: men only / women only / both men and women

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# Domestic Violence Offender Program Observation Form [Cont.]

How long is each group session? \_\_\_\_\_

Please describe the fees for participation, and how these are collected:

Did the group facilitator(s) seem knowledgeable about the dynamics of intimate partner violence, and communicate his/her knowledge clearly throughout the group session?

Did the facilitator(s) challenge victim blaming and participants' efforts to shift responsibility for their abusive behavior in a constructive way?

Did the group process demonstrate respect for the experiences of the offenders' partners and their children?

Were the participants engaged and challenged by the facilitator(s) in a respectful and professional manner that forced participants to think critically about their own and other group members' behaviors and attitudes?

Did the facilitator(s) use a structured curriculum that addressed ALL aspects of intimate partner abuse, including sexual, economic, psychological, and emotional abuse? Y / N

Please describe the curriculum.

Does the program utilize homework assignments? Y / N If so, how are they used?

# Domestic Violence Offender Program Observation Form [Cont.]

Were the facilitator(s) comfortable discussing sexuality and sexual abuse, going beyond rote phrases like “no means no” to encourage participants to think critically about their own sexual behaviors and the power dynamics involved in sexual activity?

Did the group facilitator(s) and/or program administrator enforce a lateness and attendance policy? Y / N Please describe the policy and its enforcement.

Does the program have a clear protocol in place for communicating updates about offenders' compliance to the court or referring agency? Y / N If so, please describe.

Does the program have a protocol for partner contact? Y / N

Does the program have an established relationship with a victim services provider? Y / N If so, please describe.

Does the program offer groups in any languages other than English? Y / N If so, which language(s)? \_\_\_\_\_

Does the program offer separate groups for women and/or individuals who identify as lesbian, gay, bisexual, queer, or transgender? Y / N If so, please describe.

Please share any additional comments: