NDCC 12.1-17-13. Mandated treatment of domestic violence offenders.

The sentence for an offense under section 12.1-17-01 (Simple Assault), 12.1-17-01.1 (Assault), 12.1-17-01.2 (Domestic Violence), 12.1-17-02 (Aggravated Assault), 12.1-17-03 (Reckless Endangerment), 12.1-17-04 (Terrorizing), or 12.1-17-05 (Menacing) against an actor's family or household member, as defined in subsection 4 of section 14-07.1-01, must include an order to complete a domestic violence offender evaluation and treatment program as determined by the court. A court may not order the offender to attend anger management classes or individual counseling unless a domestic violence offender treatment program is not reasonably available to the defendant and the court makes findings for the record explaining why an order to complete a domestic violence offender treatment program would be inappropriate.

North Dakota Alliance to End Partner Abuse

Previously the Batterers' Treatment Forum

The Alliance supports the utilization of battering intervention standards and implementation of training and mentoring that upholds best practices towards victim safety and offender accountability.





ND Battering Intervention Standards

- · Requires follow up communication to courts
- Group must be at least 24 1.5 hour sessions
- Attentive to lethality and safety needs of victims
- Anger management is not a best practice, because individuals abuse partners even when anger is not present
- Must work closely with advocacy programs

Standards are available at: www.cawsnorthdakota.org/ndaepa

All certified programs in the state currently use a curriculum that supports the Duluth model. When criminal justice systems and battering intervention programs work closely together, lives can change.

Coordinated Community Response Project conducted a study that tracked 366 male offenders who completed the New Choices Program from 2004-2016.

 $Community\ Violence\ Intervention\ Center,\ Grand\ Forks,\ ND$

Offenders experienced:

68% decrease in law enforcement involvement

89% decrease in criminal charges

83% decrease in protection orders filed

Comments from participants:



"I didn't think my [abusive] reactions were having such an impact on my children... I don't want them thinking it's OK to treat people this way because they've seen me set the example."



"Before this class, I was not able to recognize the severity of the abuse; I was not even willing to consider it. I was in complete denial. This class has helped me become more aware and honest with myself."