

	DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTIONS <h1>POLICY AND PROCEDURE</h1>		EFFECTIVE DATE:	July 23, 2024	Page 1 of 7
			SUPERSEDES:	4354.5	
			OPI:	EPCM	
			REVIEW DATE:	July 23, 2025	
			Approving Authority	Thomas Faust Director	
	SUBJECT:	DOMESTIC VIOLENCE			
	NUMBER:	4354.5A			
Attachments:	None				

SUMMARY OF CHANGES:

Section	Change
	Minor changes made throughout the policy.

APPROVED:

Signature on File



Thomas Faust, Director

7/23/2024

Date Signed

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1. **PURPOSE AND SCOPE.** To establish policies and procedures for identifying and screening inmates in the District of Columbia Department of Corrections (DOC) custody who have experienced and/or witnessed domestic violence as well as providing linkages and referrals to programs and/or services during their incarceration and at the time of their release.
2. **POLICY.** It is DOC policy to:
 - a. Identify and screen inmates with histories of domestic violence as a victim, perpetrator, and/or or bystander.
 - b. Ensure a referral to the appropriate programs and/or services for inmates with histories of domestic violence while at DOC and upon release via the Resources to Empower and Develop You (READY) Center.
 - c. Ensure that DOC reviews information of an inmates' history of domestic violence received from other facilities/agencies.
3. **APPLICABILITY.** This policy shall apply to all DOC inmates.
4. **NOTICE OF NON-DISCRIMINATION.** In accordance with the D.C. Human Right Act of 1977, as amended, D.C. Code § 2-1401.01 et seq., (Act) the District of Columbia does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, religion, national origin, sex, age, marital status, personal experience, sexual orientation, gender identity or expression, familial status, family responsibilities, matriculation, political affiliation, genetic information, disability, source of income, status as a victim of an intrafamily offense, or place of residence or business. Sexual harassment is a form of sex discrimination that is also prohibited by the Act.
5. **PROGRAM OBJECTIVES.** The expected results of this policy are:
 - a. To ensure that DOC staff are aware of the ways in which an inmate can report and be screened for domestic violence.

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- b. To ensure that inmates who have histories of domestic violence are referred to the appropriate programs/services while in DOC's Correctional Treatment Facility (CTF) or Central Detention Facility (CDF).
- c. To ensure that inmates with histories of domestic violence are referred to community-based domestic violence programs and services upon reentry to the community via the READY Center.

6. DIRECTIVES AFFECTED. None.

7. DIRECTIVES RESCINDED

- a. PP 4354.5 Domestic Violence (1/8/2020)

8. DIRECTIVES REFERENCED. None.

9. AUTHORITY. D.C. Code § 24.211.02.

10. STANDARDS REFERENCED. None.

11. DEFINITIONS

- a. *Domestic Violence (DV)* - Any abusive, violent, coercive, forceful, or threatening act or word inflicted by one member of a family or household on another.
- b. *Domestic Violence Screening Instrument* – An Equivant screening tool that is used to identify inmates who are or were victims, perpetrators, or bystanders of domestic violence.
- c. *Victim of Domestic Violence* – Any individual who is or has been the direct target of or witness to domestic violence.
- d. *Perpetrator of Domestic Violence* – Any individual who commits or threatens to commit an act of domestic violence.

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- e. *Bystander of Domestic Violence* – Any individual who was witness to or present during an act of domestic violence.

12. RESPONSIBILITIES

a. *Case Management*

- 1) Will conduct the initial Domestic Violence Screenings (DV Screenings), to include identifying whether an inmate has, low, medium, or high exposure to domestic violence. This initial DV Screening will be conducted within 72 hours of an inmate's arrival at DOC's Inmate Reception Center; however, the screening can also be conducted at any point during an inmate's stay at CDF or CTF, if an inmate self-reports exposure to domestic violence.
- 2) Will make the appropriate inmate referrals within 72 hours (if an inmate has medium or high exposure to domestic violence) to DOC's Behavioral Health Unit and program staff. Case Management and program staff will ensure inmates have access to Domestic Violence appropriate programming and services while committed to DC DOC. If the inmate is being released within 30 days, the READY Center will make all possible attempts to connect the inmate with the appropriate community resources.

- b. *Program Administration.* The Program Administrator or designee will accept referrals, recruitment or service providers for specialized domestic violence programs, enrollment in domestic violence programs and services, and linkages and/or referrals to the community through the READY Center.

c. *READY CENTER*

- 1) The READY Center will conduct the initial READY Center screening, to include questioning the inmates regarding their history of domestic violence.

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- 2) The READY Center will accept referrals from Programs and Case Management staff regarding an inmate with a history of domestic violence.
- 3) Inmates with histories of domestic violence will be referred to the DC Victim Hotline to access domestic violence and other victim service providers within the community. The DC Victim Hotline is 24/7, dial or text 1-844-4HELPDC (1-844-443-5732) or access the online chat at www.DCvictim.org/chat.

13. PROCEDURES FOR IDENTIFYING AND SCREENING PRE-RELEASE REFERRALS

- a. DOC Staff shall interview each inmate and administer the DV screening utilizing Equivant (formerly known as NorthPointe) upon initial intake within 72 hours at the Inmate Reception Center (IRC). All reasonable efforts will be made to ensure that the inmate's privacy is maintained during the interview. Inmates who come into DOC custody during evenings and/or weekends will receive the DV Screening during the initial interview by the Case Manager or Intake Support Assistant.
- b. Once identified by the DV Screening tool, an alert will be placed in the Jail Management System (JMS) regarding the inmate's exposure to domestic violence. At this time or at any time while incarcerated, if the inmate fears for his/her safety they will be afforded the opportunity to request and receive Protective Custody (PC).
- c. Inmates identified as having histories of domestic violence will be referred to for services based on the severity of their DV Screening score. The scores and services provided are:
 - 1) Low – A low score will result in referral to programs and services that are specific to their experience with domestic violence via email.
 - 2) Moderate – A moderate score will result in referral to DOC Behavioral Health Services team (per their referral policy) and/or programs and

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services that address the inmate's needs in relation to domestic violence.

- 3) High – A high score will result in a referral to the Office of Health Services Administration via email.
 - d. Inmates with histories of domestic violence, as a victim, perpetrator, or bystander, who have less than thirty (30) days remaining in the facility will be referred to the READY Center for further referral to community-based resources.
 - e. If an inmate, at any time during his/her incarceration in a DOC facility, reports to staff that he/she has a history of domestic violence, as a victim, perpetrator and/or or bystander, DOC staff shall refer the inmate to Case Management. The inmate's, name, DCDC number and other relevant information will be recorded.
 - f. Case Management staff will administer the DV Screening to the inmate and submit a referral to the Programs Division and/or the READY Center.
- 14. REFERRALS TO THE OFFICE OF COMMUNITY CORRECTIONS.** When completing Halfway House packages for the Office of Community Corrections, Case Managers will indicate whether an inmate is identified in JMS as a DV victim, perpetrator, and/or bystander as part of the checklist.
- 15. PROCEDURES FOR IDENTIFYING AND SCREENING POST-RELEASE REFERRALS**
- a. During the initial READY Center screening, staff will ask each inmate whether they have been a victim, perpetrator, and/or bystander of domestic violence. The READY Center staff will also check for a domestic violence alert in JMS as part of the initial READY Center screening. The READY Center will make appropriate referrals to Program staff in an effort to connect an inmate to programming within 30-days prior to release.
- 1) The READY Center staff will also enter an inmate's exposure (self-reported or identified) to domestic violence in the Apricot System.

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- 2) The READY Center will accept pre and post-release referrals from any staff at DOC or partnering agencies for participants who are within 30 days of release.

- 4) READY Center staff will accept and follow-up on referrals to determine who is interested in being linked to an agency or organization in the District of Columbia for domestic violence related resources. Staff will refer participants to the DC Victim Hotline to access domestic violence and other victim domestic violence resources in the community. The DC Victim Hotline is 24/7, dial or text 1-844-4HELPDC (1-844-443-5732) or access the online chat at www.DCvictim.org/chat.

16. TRAINING. The Supervisory Correctional Treatment Specialist will train Case Managers and IRC intake Support Assistants on the Domestic Violence Policy and administering the DV screening instrument.