

Forensic Treatment Services

Forensic Treatment Services is an outpatient violent offender program. We provide comprehensive, intensive outpatient treatment for adult and adolescent offenders. These include:

- Adult Sex Offenders
- Sexually Aggressive Youth
- Intimate Violence Offenders
- Perpetrators of Child Abuse
- Community Violence Offenders

We adhere to a Forensic model of treatment where protection of others and safety of the community is the foremost goal. Rules are used to structure and help manage offenders. Confidentiality is limited and a support system that is educated and supportive of the offender and victim is developed.

Anger Management: Bad Solution For a Bad Problem

Forensic Treatment Services

presents:

V.I.P.E.R.:

Violence Intervention, Prevention, Education, and Responsibility Program

An effective alternative to intervene in, educate about,

treat, and prevent future intimate violence

Forensic Treatment Services is a division of Valliere & Counseling Associates, Inc.

FORENSIC TREATMENT SERVICES

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“Anger management is not appropriate for those who are charged with or have a history of domestic violence...”

Carlos Todd, President of the American Association of Anger Management Providers

Anger management is a treatment designed to help people learn to control their anger and express it more productively. It is for the chronically irritated, impatient, or hostile individual who becomes easily physiologically and emotionally aroused. *It is not a treatment for violence.*

While anger management is certainly useful for some populations, it is based in the idea that a person can reduce and control hostilities. However, **it is an inappropriate treatment, solution, or sentence for individuals who are intimately or chronically violent.**

Professionals familiar with treatment of violent individuals agree (see Gondolf & Russell, 1986)¹. Anger management is inappropriate and can “have deadly consequences.” (C. Todd, 2007). In fact, the evidence is so compelling, an attorney in the Maine Bar Journal submitted a proposal to prohibit sentencing of domestic violence offenders to anger management therapy².

¹Gondolf E. W. & Russell, D. (1986). “The Case for Anger Control for Batterers.” Response, 9:3, pp. 2-5

²Bailey, M. B. (2006). “Improving the sentencing of Domestic Violence Offenders in Maine: A proposal to prohibit Anger Management Therapy.” Maine Bar Journal, Summer, 2006, pp. 140-150.

So what's the problem?

Anger and violence are not interchangeable. It is a misconception that those who are violent are violent because they are angry. This is especially true in offenders who are intimately violent, have a functional use for their violence, or get excited by violence. Violence is a behavioral expression of the offender's sense of entitlement and devaluation of the victim. The abuser believes he had the right to hit wife and his children. He has established a set of beliefs and values that support his abusiveness, control, and use of violence as an acceptable option. Anger may or may not play a role in the choice to be violent – or the offender builds a “case” to be angry to support the violent choices. Treatment that focuses on “control” can actually give the abuser more tools to appear rational in the choice to be violent.

What's the alternative?

More appropriate treatment for violence is based in the *batterer's intervention model* that address the values, beliefs, and interpersonal needs for power, control, or oppression. The treatment is longer and focuses on changing the foundational structure in the violent offenders' thinking about themselves and others. It confronts the beliefs, challenges the distortions, and focuses on accountability for behavior and valuing others.

V.I.P.E.R.

Violence Intervention, Prevention, Education, and Responsibility Program

Forensic Treatment Services has created a time-limited program to address the beliefs and values, confront the distortions, and build alternative skills in a group and individual forum. Through psychoeducation, therapy, exercises, and collaboration with the supervising or referring agency, the clients will receive remediation, education, and skill development to intervene in and prevent future acts of violence.

The program consists of an individual assessment, group therapy, case collaboration and management with the referral agency, and individual therapy as needed.

The focus of the treatment is accountability, responsibility, and changing the foundation of entitlement and the devaluation of others each offender does in order to cause harm. It is intensive, educational, and confrontational. It is appropriate for offenders who abuse others, use violence as an acceptable alternative, and who have chronic histories of criminality.

Visit our website to download a brochure, or for more information on our programs.

www.vallierecounseling.com

Call for an appointment

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