



Office of Domestic Violence and Sex Offender Management
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May 10th, 2024

To: Approved Providers of the Domestic Violence Offender Management Board
From: Colorado Domestic Violence Offender Management Board (DVOMB)
Subject: Validation of the Domestic Violence Risk and Needs Assessment (DVRNA) and the Requirement for a Second Risk Assessment Related to Domestic Violence

New Guidance by the DVOMB

DVOMB Approved Providers are no longer required to conduct a second domestic violence risk assessment for adult males for an evaluation being conducted after sentencing, unless there is a rationale to do so based on limitations of the DVRNA or a prevailing need to further assess a client. This change does not, however, remove the responsibility and expectation of DVOMB Approved Providers to assess and document all required components and instruments as required in the Standards and Guidelines in Section 4.05. Effective immediately, a second validated domestic violence risk assessment is only required for female offenders, LGBTQ+ offenders, and any evaluation being conducted prior to sentencing as specified in Section 4.05(II)(A)(2).

DVRNA Validation

The Domestic Violence Risk and Needs Assessment (DVRNA) is now considered empirically validated with adult males referred post-sentence for an evaluation. As it stands, there is a good rationale why the DVRNA is applicable to all males (both from the validation research and literature review). It applies for females and LGBTQ+¹ but there may be missing risk relevant factors for those subgroups in which case the assessment should be supplemented with other measures. In some cases, incremental validity can be added by using other general violence risk assessment instruments that are not specific to domestic violence. There may be instances where non-risk related assessments may be better at forming clinical recommendations with culturally diverse populations. For more information related to the DVRNA validation, see Enclosure 1.

Pre-Sentence Offender Evaluations

Please note that this change in policy does not apply to pre-sentence offender evaluations. If there is a referral for a pre-sentence offender evaluation, DVOMB Approved Pre-Sentence Evaluators shall include at least one additional validated domestic violence risk assessment instrument as specified in Section 4.05(II)(A)(2).

¹ Some self-report measures about LGBTQ+ specific issues may not necessarily be represented in risk assessment instruments. Risk factors appear to apply generally with this populations, however the research with the LGBTQ+ offending population is still formative and emerging.



Standard Impacted

Section 4.05(II)(A)(2) - Required Assessment Instruments

II. Required Assessment Instruments

To provide the most accurate prediction of risk for domestic violence offenders, the offender evaluation shall include at a minimum, the use of instruments that have specific relevance to assessing domestic violence offenders. Assessment instruments used for the purpose of conducting an offender evaluation shall defer to the most current version and have demonstrated reliability and validity based on published research.

A. Domestic Violence Risk Assessment Instruments

1. Domestic Violence Risk and Needs Assessment Instrument (DVRNA) (Reference Standard, 4.06 and Appendix G). This research-informed instrument is designed to assist in the classification of offenders based on risk and need to determine the appropriate intensity of treatment.
2. At least one additional domestic violence risk assessment instrument.

Summary and Conclusion

The validation of the DVRNA no longer requires a second domestic violence risk assessment for adult males referred for a post-sentence offender evaluation. There may be instances where additional instruments may be needed to discern a client's risk and needs for treatment planning purposes. DVOMB Approved Providers may conduct additional assessments as needed. The DVRNA has not yet been validated on female offenders or LGBTQ+ offenders. As a result, a second is only required these clients until further validation efforts can demonstrate the DVRNA is capable of predicting and discriminating risk amongst female and LGBTQ+ clients effectively. Additionally, pre-sentence evaluations must continue using an additional domestic violence risk assessment as the DVRNA validation only included post-conviction data.

[Enclosure 1 - Validation of the Colorado Domestic Violence Risk and Needs Assessment \(DVRNA\)](#)

Sincerely,



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