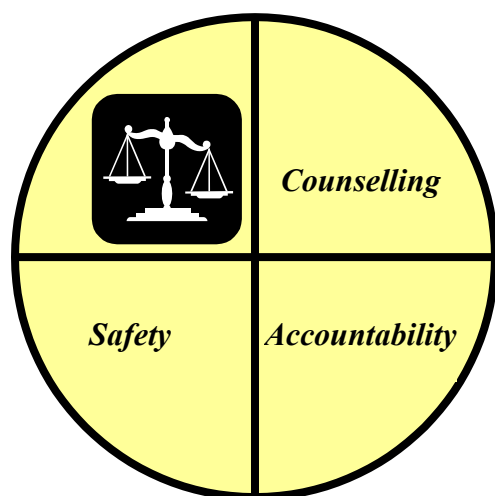


DOMESTIC VIOLENCE TREATMENT OPTION COURT



*...a New Approach to
addressing
Family Violence in the
Yukon Justice System.*

Produced with the financial assistance of:



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***The Domestic Violence
Treatment Option (DVTO)
Court recognises that
family violence is a serious
criminal act, and that a
more innovative response
is required.***

THE DVTO OPERATES ON THE FOLLOWING PRINCIPLES:

- ◆ Family violence is a learned behaviour that can be changed.
- ◆ Offenders need to take responsibility for their actions, while also being supported with counselling.
- ◆ Early intervention by a multi-disciplinary team is essential.
- ◆ Initial and ongoing support must be offered victims and their families.
- ◆ An offender must be held accountable, and any deterioration in the offender's behaviour will be reported to the Court immediately

HOW DOES THE COURT OPERATE?

- ◆ Specially assigned judiciary, crown and the defence lawyers will hear cases on scheduled Monday afternoons.

- ◆ Other resource people such as Probation Officers, counsellors from the Spousal Assault Program and Victim Services will regularly attend Court to provide assistance.
- ◆ Cases are fast tracked and the Court is provided monthly progress summaries by the counsellors.
- ◆ Support is provided to victims, who would like assistance with safety planning, referrals for counselling for themselves and their children, updates on the offenders progress and assistance with varying release conditions and preparation of victim impact statements for the court.

HOW DOES THE ACCUSED ENTER THE DVTO COURT?

- ◆ After the RCMP have laid a charge that involves allegations of domestic violence, a Court date will be issued for the Accused to attend DVTO Court on a Monday afternoon
- ◆ The assigned Defence Counsel will review the case with the Accused and explain the DVTO Court Process to them. If the Accused chooses to proceed with the case through DVTO Court the matter will be adjourned for approximately two weeks so that the Spousal Assault Program (SAP) counsellors can complete an

assessment and determine if the Accused is eligible for treatment through the SAP.

- ◆ If the Accused is eligible for the SAP and chooses to proceed through the DVTO Court process, they will appear in court and indicate that they are accepting responsibility for the charge(s). The sentencing hearing will then be postponed for several months to allow the Accused to complete the Spousal Assault Program and address any other treatment needs.
- ◆ The Accused will be required to attend Court on a monthly basis to check in and report on their treatment progress. Following the completion of the SAP or other treatment a written summary will be done by the Accused counsellor(s) to report on their progress. A copy of the written summary will be given to the Accused, defence counsel, the crown and the Court.
- ◆ The sentencing judge will review the written counselling summary of the Accused and the sentence will reflect this progress, while also addressing any future counselling and safety issues.

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