

DOMESTIC VIOLENCE EDUCATION PROGRAM FOR INDIVIDUALS WHO ABUSE

Because wanting to stop is not enough.

Why is the Emerge Method the Model of Choice?

Founded in 1977, Emerge was the first abuser education program in the United States. Since its creation, Emerge has been a national leader in working to end violence in intimate relationships. In working towards this goal, Emerge curriculum seeks to educate individual abusers, prevent young people from learning to accept violence in their relationships, improve institutional responses to domestic violence, and increase public awareness about the causes and solutions to partner violence. Emerge is a structured curriculum that teaches that domestic violence is a learned behavior, not a disease or sickness. Emerge recognizes that battering is not merely physical violence but a range of coercive behaviors that often consists of physical, sexual, psychological, verbal, and economic abuse. Emerge believes battering is a purposeful behavior, rather than being impulsive, spontaneous, or irrational; battering is an intentional behavior that serves to gain and maintain control in relationships. Emerge recognizes that other oppressive life circumstances such as racism, poverty, and homophobia creates a climate that contributes to violence (www.emergedv.com).

*Emerge believes that individuals who abuse can change,
that they have the ability to change, but have to make the choice.*

Why is the Program not considered Mental Health Treatment nor covered by Health Insurance?

The Domestic Violence Education Program for Individuals who Abuse is not a counseling treatment program, as noted as a program standard in the 2021 New York State Office of Prevention of Domestic Violence's (NYSOPDV) "Report on Public Hearings on Accountability Programs For Those Who Cause Harm." Violence is not associated with any billable diagnostic codes. Most importantly, many experts believe that counseling approaches for offenders have "diverted attention to the batterers' psychological well-being and away from victim's safety." Counseling approaches, if practiced alone, can leave victims vulnerable to continued violence and do little to change the underlying beliefs of entitlement. By placing the psychological health of the offender above the safety or legal protection of the victim or the offender's own accountability, the counseling approach is not consistent with international human rights standards. Due to these reasons, the educational offender program model is the most effective in protecting victims and holding offenders accountable for their criminal conduct. (2016, The Advocates for Human Rights).

What is the success rate of the Program?

The success rate of the program is determined by the offender's completion of program curriculum, as it is educational in nature. There are several factors that impede the current evaluation of the program due to the program's educational nature. The facilitators do not have access to recidivism rates after program completion. It is common for domestic violence to not be reported and for participants to drop out of the program. Additionally, in the state and nationally, the data regarding recidivism is lacking. However, in general, there is research to support that educational intervention is better than no intervention at all. Studies conducted in 2004 (Moyer) and 2009 (National Institute for Justice) and a qualitative report from NYSOPDV (2021) reiterated this claim.

Why should I refer my client to Family Service Society, Inc. for DV education services?

- Family Service Society, Inc. (FSS) has followed state, national, and international best practices within the Domestic Violence Education Program For Individuals Who Abuse for more than two decades.
- The Emerge Model allows flexibility in topics to best fit the needs of each intervention group.
- FSS consistently collaborates with organizations providing similar intervention programs throughout New York State to ensure adherence to the latest laws, practices, and information.
- Research shows that intervention is connected to lower recidivism than no intervention at all.
- The agency maintains a sliding scale fee for clients.
- The Program provides monthly progress reports to referral sources.
- The FSS team is experienced in working with mandated populations.

The Emerge Model Curriculum

40-Week Curriculum

- Group sessions - 2 hours weekly, small groups ranging from 8 to 13 participants
- Groups are co-facilitated by qualified professionals
- Introduction stage: 8 weeks, educational group model on domestic violence topics. Members evaluated for participation and appropriateness for program upon completion of the first 8 weeks. By the end of this stage, group members will identify which ways they have been harmful towards their partners or families.
- Process stage: 32 weeks, interactive groups discussing progress, what's going on in their relationships, working on relationship history to identify abusive patterns, and creating individual goals.

Eligibility Criteria

Males and females (separate groups); age 18 and over

How to Make a Referral

The Court, Probation Officer or Parole Officer, or DSS can telephone our Intake Worker at 607-962-3148 to request a referral form that can be faxed back to us. Non-mandated individuals are also accepted.

Site Location

Bath, New York

Group Days/Times

Phase 1: Wednesdays, 1:30 PM to 3:30 PM starting Spring of 2023

Phase 2: TBD



Planting the seeds for a better tomorrow