

Indiana Coalition Against Domestic Violence, Inc.  
Holistic Response to Domestic Violence  
Position Paper

The Indiana Coalition Against Domestic Violence, Inc. (ICADV) recognizes domestic violence as a physically and psychologically damaging cultural, social and a criminal problem and is committed to its elimination. ICADV recognizes that violence occurs in all relationships, that everyone is affected by it, and that the solution involves everyone. For the purpose of this Position Paper, the victim will be referred to as (she) and the perpetrator as (he) as statistics identify that 97% of the victims are women and the male is most often the perpetrator.

ICADV believes that in order to eliminate domestic violence the entire family (woman, man and child) must have access to and receive domestic violence intervention services. Furthermore, it is our belief that safety must come first in families because without safety other supportive services are less effective.

ICADV believes that intervention service for victims should include, at the minimum, voluntary safety planning, support groups, emergency shelter, advocacy, medical, and legal services. These should be offered under the guiding principle of respecting the victim's self-direction and restoring her decision-making skills in order to gain control over her own life.

ICADV believes that intervention for children should include services that address safety, education, and the effect of domestic violence.

ICADV believes that joint counseling is not appropriate prior to the perpetrator's completion of a qualified intervention program. Joint counseling can increase risk of further violence to the victim and other family members.

Furthermore, ICADV believes that intervention for perpetrators must be clear and swift. It should include criminal and civil sanctions that hold the perpetrator accountable for his actions and court-mandated participation in a qualified intervention program.