



CONTRA COSTA COUNTY DOMESTIC VIOLENCE RESPONSE SYSTEM - SAFETY AUDIT

Audit Question: In what ways does batterer's treatment programs and the systems surrounding them centralize and/or marginalize the safety of victims and their children?

What is a Safety Audit?

This is an examination of how everyday practices occur across batterer's treatment programs and the systems that surround them (such as the Court, Probation, and Domestic Violence Advocates). We are not looking at how individual practitioners do their work, but how organizational processes shape the activities across treatment providers. We want to know how the institution is able to achieve a fairly consistent response from practitioners – regardless of their personal attitudes, skills, or philosophical orientations to a problem. Thus, we are examining the institutional practices within Contra Costa County and how are these systems organized and coordinated to centralize or marginalize the safety of victims and their children.

Where do we look for this information?

1. Observation of Practices
2. Case File Review
3. Focus Groups & Interviews

What are we looking for?

We want to learn how to close the gaps between what real people need to maintain safety and what the institution is able to provide. The answers lie within **Audit Trails**.

- What are the *rules, regulations, policies, and laws* that govern what we do?
- What are the *administrative practices* (e.g., forms) that govern workers?
- What types of *resources* are available?
- What *concepts and theories* govern what is done within an agency?
- How are people *linked* within and between agencies?
- What are the *mission, purpose and function* of the involved agencies?
- How are we *accountable* to victims and their children?
- What types of *education and training* are available?

What can you do to help?

Interest	Action	Time Commitment
Big Picture: What questions are we going to ask? What did we find out?	Be on the Audit Team	January – June 30 hours
What are the institutional practices of those working with you in the system?	Observe Practices Conduct a Focus Group/Interview	January – June 15 hours
What are the administrative practices that govern your fellow workers?	Review Case Files	January – June 10 hours
What do batterers or their victims need to maintain safety?	Conduct a Focus Group/Interview	January – June 15 hours
How does my agency marginalize or centralize safety?	Open your case files	January – June 3 hours
I'd like to participate in all or some of the above.	Use your expertise to guide the process	January – June 3-73 hours

Contact Jill Messing: jmessing@berkeley.edu or (510) 393-8015 – Audit Coordinator

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