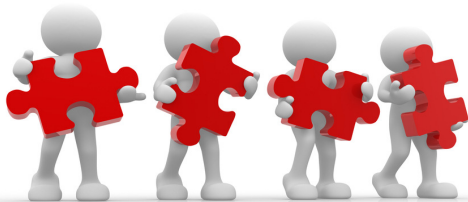


## DVOMB PHILOSOPHY

The DVOMB is invested in promoting the availability of treatment providers across Colorado and the quality of those services. The DVOMB believes it is responsible for providing various types of support to the treatment providers in their efforts to provide quality services. Offenders need to be held accountable, in treatment, to pay for treatment, and to pay fees that are reasonable within the industry. The DVOMB is supportive of resources that assist offenders to pay for treatment. The DVOMB acknowledges that there is a difference between a situation where the offender is unwilling to change his/her current lifestyle in order to pay for treatment, and a situation where the offender is truly indigent, unemployed, or in financial crisis.



DVOMB Approved Providers offer valuable treatment and can measurably assist in the prevention of further acts of domestic violence.

Providers should expect reasonable compensation for providing treatment evaluations and treatment services.

The Colorado Domestic Violence Offender Management Board  
*Standards for Treatment With Court Ordered Domestic Violence Offenders*, Section 5.05 (B) (9) states, “*Offender fees: The offender paying for his/her own evaluation and treatment is an indicator of responsibility and shall be incorporated in the treatment plan. All Approved Providers shall offer court ordered domestic violence evaluation and treatment services based on a sliding fee scale.*”



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## OFFENDERS WITH FINANCIAL CHALLENGES

### Domestic Violence Offender Management Board (DVOMB) Information Series

Are you working with an offender who is expressing difficulty in paying for treatment? This brochure is designed to offer some guidance to treatment providers, probation officers, Multi-disciplinary Treatment Team (MTT) members and others working with this population.



## ASSESS REASONS FOR THE OFFENDER'S PAYMENT DIFFICULTIES

Members of the MTT are encouraged to explore and assess the reasons for the offender's inability to pay.

- *Is there documented evidence that the offender is indigent?*
- *Is there proof that the offender is unemployed?*
- *Is there supportive data that the offender is in financial crisis?*
- *Is there verification that the offender has a severely limited earning capacity?*
- *Is the offender unwilling to change his/her lifestyle to pay for treatment?*
- *Does the offender regard payment as their responsibility?*
- *Does the offender's attitude reflect a pattern of minimization toward the seriousness of his/her crime or a persistent sense of entitlement?*



## CONSIDERATIONS FOR THE MTT WHEN OFFENDERS EXPRESS PAYMENT DIFFICULTIES

Designate an MTT member to assess the offender's ability to pay. Utilize a financial worksheet to identify expenses that may be decreased or eliminated for the duration of treatment. Cable bills, entertainment, or other discretionary expenses can be diverted for treatment costs.

Once the fees are established, the MTT should present a unified expectation that the offender is responsible for paying for treatment.

A Judicial Review could be used to underscore the seriousness of the crime and expectation that the offender will follow sentencing requirements such as paying for treatment, maintaining employment and maintaining sobriety.

The DVOMB encourages the MTT to make every effort to assist the offenders to meet their financial responsibilities so that a demonstrated inability to pay does not become a barrier to treatment.

It has been demonstrated that when MTT members consistently expect the offender to: a) take responsibility for their treatment, b) pay a reasonable fee for treatment, and c) make some lifestyle changes, if needed, in order to pay for treatment, the result is most offenders pay for treatment.

## OPTIONS FOR OFFENDERS WHO HAVE DEMONSTRATED AN INABILITY TO PAY

- **Financial billing suspension**  
Example: The offender is suspended from treatment for several sessions. During the missed sessions the client completes homework showing he or she is still invested in treatment. The MTT then resumes the requirement of group attendance and payment. The intent of this "break" is to give the client an opportunity to catch up financially, still be invested in groups and allows the Provider to receive payment for services rendered.
- **Sliding scale** (see DVOMB Standards, Section 5.05 (B) (9)).
- **Economic counseling** to explore financial challenges and options for change.
- **Vouchers** from probation or parole may be available. Eligibility is often based on client progress in treatment and financial need.
- **Financial contracts** used to specify agreements between the Provider and the offender.