

Nonviolent Alternatives Policy and Procedure Manual

Discharge from Program

Evaluation for administrative discharge should be undertaken in the following circumstances:

- Continued abuse, particularly physical violence;
- Failure to comply with attendance requirements;
- Failure to make appropriate use of the program;
- Failure to comply with other intervention conditions or provisions which are part of the participant's contract, such as involvement in a substance abuse program for drugs and alcohol, involvement with mental health treatment;
- Violation of group or program rules;
- Violation of any provisions of a court order;
- Bringing weapons or illegal substances to program property;
- Threats or violence to program staff;
- Violation of any provision of the Enrollment Agreement.

Non-compliance with the contract, with a court order or with group rules should be documented in writing, except when to do so is in contradiction to the policies outlined in the partner contact section of this manual.

A decision to administratively discharge a participant must be approved by the Program Director. The Program Director has ultimate accountability to ensure discrimination does not occur against any participant based on gender, race, class, age, physical handicap, religion, educational attainment, ethnicity, national origin, or sexual orientation.

To complete our program, a participant must comply with all terms of their enrollment agreement requirements. These include, but are not limited to:

- Attendance Requirements;
- Cooperation with all group rules;
- Desistance from violence and threats of violence, and other abusive and controlling conduct, while a member of the program;
- Compliance with court orders.

Nonviolent Alternatives' policy is to provide any information requested to any participant's victim/survivor/partner, or their counselor or advocate, including notification of a participant's discharge from the program and whether the discharge was due to successful completion of program requirements or unsuccessful due to expulsion from the program.

Nonviolent Alternatives' policy is NOT to seek verification from the battered victim/survivor/partner of the participant's behavior. We believe this policy is in the best interest of victim safety. Communication with the participant, victim/survivor/partner and the court specify only that the participant have been given a discharge, which is based on adequate compliance with the attendance provisions of their enrollment agreement. Any communication must include the following statement: ***Program completion is not predictive of future nonviolence or nonabusive behaviors.***

Incident Reports are sent to referral sources within 24 hours of a participant being discharged unsuccessful.