

DV Dads: Frequently Asked Questions

What is DV Dads?

- DV Dads is a specialized group for fathers who have acted abusively in their intimate partner relationships.

What Issues are Addressed in DV Dads?

In this group, we address:

- Understanding the impact on children of intimate partner domestic violence
- The impact of minimizing, denial, and blame on children
- Learning how to be accountable in an age-appropriate manner to our children
- The importance of demonstrating respect for the mother of our children
- Understanding child development
- How to communicate with children in ways that foster cooperation instead of conflict
- How to implement natural and logical consequences
- How to strengthen relationships with our children

What Curriculum is Used in DV Dads?

- The primary curriculum is *Helping Children Who Experience Domestic Violence*, written by Meg Crager and Lily Anderson
- This is supplemented by exercises from *Caring Dads: Helping Fathers Value Their Children* (2006, Katreena Scott, Ph.D.), a program developed in Toronto, Ontario.

Who is Eligible for DV Dads Participation?

- Fathers who have completed a *minimum* of the Weekly phase of a State-certified domestic violence perpetrator intervention program (DVIP) are eligible to be considered for DV Dads participation. Fathers must demonstrate a baseline of accountability for their abusive behavior before being able to enter DV Dads.
- In order to remain in compliance with DV Dads, fathers must be in compliance with their primary DVIP as well.

How Does a Father Enroll in DV Dads?

- Fathers wishing to enter DV Dads begin by completing an intake with DV Dads program staff. This gives us a chance to get to know fathers better, and to understand what fathers have learned from their participation in their primary DVIP.
- Fathers can come into our office in Pioneer Square anytime Monday through Wednesday, between 10am and 3pm, to fill out initial paperwork and schedule the intake.

How Long Does the Program Last?

- DV Dads meets twice monthly for five months. Once a father completes the program, he can continue to attend sessions free of charge.

What Are the Requirements for Completing DV Dads?

- Fathers must attend the minimum required ten sessions
- Fathers will have regularly assigned homework that they are responsible for completing.
- During the course of their participation, fathers will complete an Empathy Letter, outlining their understanding of the impact that their intimate partner domestic violence behaviors have had on their children.
- Fathers must maintain full compliance with their primary DVIP, and all relevant court orders (including, but not limited to, orders for child support).

Who Facilitates the DV Dads Group?

- Mark Adams is a Licensed Mental Health Counselor who has been working in the DVIP at Family Services since 1999. He is a Child Mental Health Specialist, and is qualified at a supervisory level for working in DVIPs. As part of his work, Mark co-facilitates groups for children who have experienced intimate partner domestic violence within their families. These groups are offered through Jewish Family Service in conjunction with Family Services.