

North Carolina Division of Prisons Program Services

Prison Program

Description:

S.T.O.P. & Change Direction Domestic Violence Education and Treatment Program

S.T.O.P. is psycho-educational program that assists men who want to stop using physical, emotional, sexual and social violence/abuse in their personal relationships. Students receive practical and in-depth education about the many facets of domestic violence. And, since violence is often the product of family patterns, they are given the opportunity to engage therapeutically regarding their own personal history of violence, in order to translate the explanations for their behavior into lasting change. S.T.O.P. is based on the tenets that:

1. domestic violence is a learned behavior that negatively impacts individuals, families as well as our local and global communities
2. domestic violence is a social problem rooted in inequality, mis-education and distorted thinking patterns that perpetuate or excuse violent behavior
3. the basic foundation of any non-violent lifestyle is empathy, accountability, and personal responsibility
4. healthy interpersonal relationships require skills that must be practiced

Criteria for Participation:

The STOP Program Coordinator selects inmates residing in any NCDOC medium custody facility who have:

1. perpetrated acts of domestic violence and/or;
2. witnessed acts of domestic violence most often in childhood and/or;
3. been a victim of domestic violence most often in childhood

Additionally, S.T.O.P. participants:

4. are willing to defer minimum custody while completing the program
5. are free of infractions 90 days prior to the first day of class
6. can reside in the S.T.O.P. student dorm at ACI during the program
7. have enough time remaining on their sentence to complete the program
8. can articulate appropriate reasons/motivation for program participation
9. possess an adequate reading level
10. have passed an ESL test [if applicable]

Program Operation:

S.T.O.P. is a full time, 20-week voluntary program offered twice each year and includes up to 25 students per course. It is located at Albemarle Correctional Institution. It is currently staffed by one program coordinator/instructor, a part-time consulting psychologist and five peer counselors. Students participate in the program Monday through Friday.