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The Honorable Nikki R. Haley
Office of the Governor
1205 Pendleton Street
Columbia, South Carolina 29201

RE: domestic violence services

Dear Governor Haley,

We have been pleased to notice all the positive changes you've initiated to protect domestic violence victims, including children, in South Carolina. The Domestic Violence Reform Act was signed into law by yourself on 6-4-2015. With this legislation came changes to the approval authority of Batterer Intervention programs from the Department of Social Services to the Circuit Solicitor. I know and understand that you have been trying to make a difference in SC, and we have too.

I am the Executive Director and Founder of both Step Up to Family Safety, a 501(c)(3) and IMPACT Family Violence Services LLC, located in Charlotte, NC. IMPACT is a NC certified Batterer Intervention Program and currently provides services to multiple counties throughout NC. Step Up provides community awareness and education as well as scholarships for IMPACT clients who meet the criteria.

I know you've worked closely with my dear friend, Kit Gruelle. A frequent guest to our program is Deanna Walters, the incredible hero from the film "Private Violence". Advisor to our Step Up Board is Tony Porter of A Call to Men. Our personal roots are in SC (I was raised in Rock Hill and have 2 degrees from Winthrop University) and we have been excited and eager to offer services in South Carolina, beginning with York County. We have been working on this expansion for the last 8 months and have hit a roadblock with every direction we turn.

We are seeking information on the SC Batterer Intervention Certification Process and the Standards of Care for Batterers Treatment. No one in SC seems to have an answer as to what this certification process is. We have left numerous messages with the Circuit Solicitor's office, Kevin Brackett; we have left messages with the York County DSS Director, Jim Nichols; we have reached out to the SC DSS office; we have met with judicial officials and followed all of Judge White's recommendations as far as who we may want to try to contact. We are not getting returned phone calls. We are not getting returned emails. We are not getting anywhere and feel that we have resorted to begging SC to allow us to provide a MUCH needed service to its people. Is it your recommendation that we give up trying to help SC? There are several possibilities as to services we can provide, with the most likely being Fatherhood programs for batterers; a combination BIP (Batterer Intervention Program) and Fatherhood program, which would follow some excellent national models. As far as we can tell, this is not being offered in South Carolina. Can you help us help your citizens?

Thank you for your time, consideration, and passion for improving the lives and safety of so many women and children.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Bea Coté', is written over a horizontal line.

Bea Coté, LCSW, LMFT



Mail to:

**6035-100 Florence Ave.
Charlotte NC 28212**

Note: Intake assessments are by appointment only at various locations. For additional information, please call 980.721.7268.

CONTACT US

Bea Côté

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STOP
Domestic Violence.
It's Within Your Power.

WWW.IMPACTDV.ORG





Domestic Violence Offender Programs (Batterer Intervention)

BATTERER INTERVENTION

IMPACT offers services to male court ordered offenders and non-court involved men who acknowledge controlling and/or abusive behaviors toward their partners.

Upon acceptance into IMPACT, clients will attend either 52 or 26 weekly group sessions. These groups focus on the client's accountability to his partner, his children, and the community at large while learning the skills needed to change his belief system and behavior in order to lead a life of non-violence.

Our purpose is to support and serve victims of domestic violence by communicating with them while providing their abusive partners with the tools needed to successfully lead a violence-free life.

PROVIDING RESOURCES

Although we cannot guarantee each offender will be successful, as advocates we can and will provide resources to victims in order for them to make decisions that will best ensure their safety and those of their children.

At this time, IMPACT does not accept female offenders, clients diagnosed with severe mental illnesses, or children. IMPACT reserves the right to recommend alternative options to clients who may require additional services.

Full disclosure from our clients in all regards is expected and required. Failure to attend all required sessions or violation of other program rules will result in termination from the program.

IMPACT will notify the victim and the referring person or agency of all such changes in the client's status in the program.

WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW

IMPACT is partially supported with funds from Step Up to Family Safety, a 501(c)(3).

- Intakes are offered weekdays.
- Groups are offered on weeknights and Saturday mornings.
- Reasonable fees are in line with other psychoeducational services. Call for details.
- Payment is required at each meeting.
- Cancellation and no-show charges will apply in order to further stress the importance of offender responsibility and accountability.
- Clients call 980.721.7268 to schedule an intake.

At intake, clients are required to bring:

- Copies of all relevant documents, including court orders.
- 50-B's (order of protection or restraining orders).
- Police reports.