



## **STATE DIRECTOR'S MEMORANDUM # 2010-03**

**TO:** All Probation Directors/Commissioners

**FROM:** Robert M. Maccarone *R.M.M.*  
State Director

**DATE:** April 1, 2010

**SUBJECT:** Probation Response to Domestic Violence

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The New York State Division of Probation and Correctional Alternatives is pleased to release the *Probation Response to Domestic Violence: A Model Investigation and Supervision Procedural Package*. This document combines and updates our previously released Probation Investigation and Supervision Packages, and integrates guidance concerning stalking behaviors often demonstrated by offenders in intimate partner relationships.

DPCA and probation professionals in New York State have long recognized the importance of working with victim advocates in the development and standardization of the probation response to domestic violence. With the support of grant funding from the U.S. Department of Justice in 1998, DPCA with the NYS Office for the Prevention of Domestic Violence (OPDV) and the NYS Coalition Against Domestic Violence (NYSCADV), initiated the delivery of statewide training and began publishing an extensive series of guidelines for probation officers and administrators that provide techniques, approaches and strategies to address the unique challenges of enhancing victim safety while holding domestic violence offenders accountable for abusive behavior.

The criminal justice system response to domestic violence in New York State has improved significantly over the last 12 years. These improvements have been supported by the addition of significant changes in law, the institutionalization of standard training, and an enhanced appreciation for the shared benefits of closer collaboration between agencies and other stakeholders. As the probation response to domestic violence has become more comprehensive over time, related issues such as stalking by intimate partners have emerged that were previously unaddressed and have now been incorporated into the current document.

We acknowledge the continued professionalism of probation practitioners in holding offenders accountable and supporting victims of these particularly devastating crimes. The release of these enhanced guidelines is intended to support probation professionals in this important work and to further improve practice across the state.

Attachment