

Notice of Agency Rule-making Adoption

AGENCY: Maine Department of Corrections

CHAPTER NUMBER AND TITLE: Chapter 15, Batterer Intervention Program Certification

ADOPTED RULE NUMBER: **20xx.xxx**

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CONCISE SUMMARY: The Department of Corrections adopts this rule to amend the prior rule to add provisions designed to help certified batterer intervention programs deliver their classes safely during the COVID-19 pandemic and similar emergencies. A new section is added to the rule (section 11) for certified batterer intervention programs to deliver their classes via video conferencing groups if they are not able to offer in-person groups that comply with health and safety guidelines when a State of Emergency has been declared by the Governor or at the discretion of the Department of Corrections. There is also a provision for allowing an individual participant for whom there are health and safety concerns to attend a group via video conferencing. There is a provision for such a participant who does not have access to video conferencing technology to attend via phone until access to video conferencing technology is gained. There are provisions for notification to victims and others when participants are not attending in person. Finally, there are provisions that allow recordings of groups by educators and monitors for quality assurance purposes.

EFFECTIVE DATE:

(TO BE FILLED IN BY SECRETARY OF STATE)

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