

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE FIFTEENTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT
IN AND FOR PALM BEACH COUNTY, FLORIDA

ADMINISTRATIVE ORDER NO. 5.509-1/22*

IN RE: BATTERER'S INTERVENTION PROGRAMS

Florida Statute section 741.325 establishes the requirements that a Batterer's Intervention Program (BIP) must meet in order to be included on the Circuit Court's list of providers. In September 2015, Office of State Courts in Florida recommended Circuit Courts require their providers to submit an Affidavit certifying their compliance with statutory requirements. This Court issued Administrative Order No. 5.509-6/19 to implement that recommendation.

However, on July 1, 2021, section 741.327, Florida Statutes, was revived, reenacted, and amended to provide that the Department of Children and Families shall once again certify and monitor batterers' intervention programs. Section 741.327 also provides that the department shall adopt rules and procedures for the approval, suspension, or rejection of certification of batterers' intervention programs. The Legislature explained that the department shall certify and monitor BIP programs to be used by the justice system in order "to ensure statewide consistency." § 741.32, Fla. Stat.

Accordingly, BIP programs must once again be certified through the Department of Children and Families. At the same time, H.B. 1231 did not alter the Court's obligation to provide respondents in domestic violence injunction actions with a list of BIP programs, or remove the limitation that the Court must then order them to complete one of the programs from that list. *See* § 741.30(6)(a)(5), Fla. Stat. (2021). Additionally, DCF has not implemented any rules or procedures for BIP certification as of the date of this Order.

NOW, THEREFORE, pursuant to the authority conferred by Florida Rule of Judicial Administration 2.215, it is **ORDERED** as follows:

1. The Circuit is no longer accepting applications for new approved providers for Batterer's Intervention Programs as of January 14, 2022.
2. Potential new providers and previously approved providers must submit their application and "Affidavit of Compliance" by end of business on January 14, 2022, if they have not already done so by the date of this Order. Failure to submit an updated affidavit prior to that date will result in automatic removal of a previously approved provider from the Circuit's list without further notice. A copy of the application and affidavit of compliance can be found at: <https://www.15thcircuit.com/program-page/bip>
3. The Circuit will form its regular committee consisting of the domestic violence judge, the family court manager, a public defender, and a state attorney to review and approve the pending applications.
4. Providers are to update their contact information within fifteen business days of any change.

5. Continued inclusion on the Circuit's list of BIP providers acknowledges only that the named provider has submitted a sworn affidavit attesting to their compliance with the terms set forth in section 741.325, Florida Statutes, and does not constitute certification or approval by the Department of Children and Families in accordance with section 741.327, Florida Statutes.
6. The Circuit will continue to provide its list of BIP providers in accordance with section 741.30(6)(a)(5), Florida Statutes, until such time as the Department of Children and Families makes available its list of duly certified providers.

DONE and SIGNED in Chambers at West Palm Beach, Palm Beach County, Florida, this 4th day of **January 2022**.



Glenn Kelley, Chief Judge

* supersedes Admin. Order No. 5.509-6/19