

**QUEENS INTERIM PROBATION  
DOMESTIC VIOLENCE TEAM (QIPDVT)****BACKGROUND**

QIPDVT is a new initiative funded through the NYC Domestic Violence Task Force (DVTF) which was launched by Mayor de Blasio in November 2016 and charged with developing a comprehensive Citywide strategy to address one of the most urgent challenges facing our City.

**GOALS AND OBJECTIVES**

The goal of Queens Interim Probation Domestic Violence Team (QIPDVT) probation supervision is to reduce recidivism by conducting assessments with each probationer, creating individualized treatment plans, and implementing responsive interventions. Interim supervised probation, under the guidance of specially trained Department of Probation (DOP) staff, is the foundation of an approach that utilizes accountability measures and support to generate lasting behavior change. The QIPDVT will work with clients who are assigned to them through interim probation plea conditions in Queens Criminal Court part AP4. Interim probation is a post-plea, pre-sentence condition agreed upon by the prosecution and defense and imposed by the judge, wherein the court adjourns sentencing for up to one year from the date of plea and places the defendant under interim probation supervision between the plea and sentence date.

**STATUTORY FRAMEWORK**

The statutory authority for interim probation is found in CPL §390.30(6). If imposed, the court will adjourn the sentencing date of the defendant for no more than one year from the date of conviction. A defendant must receive a written copy of the interim probation conditions, as outlined in PL §65.10, at the time that they are placed on interim probation. If a defendant satisfactorily completes a term of interim probation, the time on interim probation will be applied toward any probation sentence that is ultimately imposed. The court will receive information from probation in a presentence report about the defendant's compliance with the interim probation terms and must consider that when determining the subsequent sentence. The court is not required to impose a sentence of probation after the completion of an interim probation term and can consider any appropriate and eligible sentence options. Appropriate pleas for interim probation include: Superior Court Information pleas (straight felony pleas and conditional felony pleas), misdemeanor pleas, and conditional misdemeanor pleas. Any criminal plea that is otherwise eligible for probation may be eligible for interim probation, see CPL 65.00(1), for Sentence of Probation Criteria.

## QUEENS INTERIM PROBATION DOMESTIC VIOLENCE TEAM (QIPDVT)

### PROBATION PERSONNEL

The QIPDVT consists of four probation officers (POs) who have been specifically trained to work with clients with a history of domestic violence. Their efforts will be overseen by an experienced supervising PO who has also been specially trained in domestic violence. These POs will work with a limited caseload and their efforts will be further supported by two court liaison officers (CLOs) who will conduct risk assessment screenings and coordinate courtroom proceedings for eligible defendants. In addition, DOP will engage a victim advocate who will help link victims and family members to resources.

Staff Member	Position	Position Description
Helena Campbell	Probation Officer/CLO (Court Liaison Officer)	CLOs are assigned to part AP4 and report compliance related matters to the Court. They are also responsible for conducting a domestic violence risk assessment (using the Ontario Domestic Violence Risk Assessment (ODARA) to assess potential probation cases. POs supervise the client once he/she is assigned to probation by the court. As part of the supervision process, the POs see the client in the office and conduct field and program visits. POs may also co-facilitate a batterers' program.
Steve White	Probation Officer/CLO (Court Liaison Officer)	
Denise McNeil-Grant	Branch Chief	The Branch Chief is the manager of the entire unit and is responsible for making final decisions regarding the response to non-compliance. The Branch Chief also ensures the unit is following the programmatic requirements
Cesar Heredia	Probation Officer	POs supervise the client once he/she is assigned to probation by the court. As part of the supervision process, the POs see the client in the office and conduct field and program visits. POs may also co-facilitate a batterers' program.
Cody Greenfield	Probation Officer	
Keisha Hicks	Probation Officer	
Samiqua Peterson	Probation Officer	
Kerri Stadd	Supervisor	The Supervisor is responsible for overseeing the daily operations of the unit and communicating with court personnel, DA's office, defense bar, etc.

**QUEENS INTERIM PROBATION  
DOMESTIC VIOLENCE TEAM (QIPDVT)****CONCLUSION**

While QIPDVT offers a new alternative path to domestic violence defendants with a program designed to help them change behaviors that cause harm, it will be incomplete without active involvement from all stakeholders. Though accountability is prioritized, we also recognize that many of those who accept a plea to interim probation have been traumatized themselves. Consequently, linkages to responsive resources and a trauma-informed approach are crucial.

We can ensure this pilot's success through active partnerships and engagement among the Defense Bar, the Queens County District Attorney's Office, and the Office for Court Administration to develop individualized and responsive interventions. If we meet our objective, clients will emerge from the interim probation program with the tools they need to change behaviors that cause harm.