

# Candidate Study Guide for the Illinois Certified Domestic Violence Professional Examination

The following information is intended to help you prepare for the Illinois Certified Domestic Violence Professional Examination. Part I of this study guide contains general information about the profession and testing procedures. Part II provides a content outline, lists the competencies covered in the examination, and identifies reference materials that support each part of this Examination. Part III includes sample questions to help you prepare for this test.

## Part I General Information

### **PURPOSE OF THE EXAMINATION**

This examination has been developed in collaboration with Illinois Certified Domestic Violence Professionals, Inc., to ensure that certification is granted only to professionals who are familiar with domestic violence practices, rules and regulations that will protect the health, safety and welfare of the public.

### **TEST VALIDITY**

The time limit for this examination is two hours. This examination has been developed to meet strict standards of test fairness and validity in consultation with a committee of experienced domestic violence professionals.

### **PHOTO ID**

Each candidate must present a photo ID and a valid admission notice to be admitted to any of these examinations. Only a valid Driver's License, Secretary of State ID card, or a current passport is acceptable as photographic identification. If the name on the photo ID does not match the name on the admission notice, proof of legal name change also must be presented before the candidate can be admitted to an examination.

### **SPECIAL ACCOMODATIONS**

Any candidate who needs special accommodations in test-taking procedures because of a disabling condition must communicate that need in writing with his or her application. No accommodations can be arranged on the day of a test.

### **SCORING THE EXAMINATION**

Candidates who pass the test will receive a certificate from Illinois Certified Domestic Violence Professionals, Inc.

### **MISSING AN EXAMINATION**

There are no "make-up" examinations. You may re-register for the next scheduled examination date.

### **RE-EXAMINATION**

Candidates who fail the test will receive an application to retake the examination and information to help them identify content areas on which they need to improve their performance.

## Part II Test Content and Recommended Study Materials

This examination was developed in collaboration with a committee of experienced domestic violence professionals. Content areas on the test are outlined below. All of the study materials for this examination are identified on page three of this study guide.

This examination is organized into six sections as shown in the following outline.

- |   |                            |
|---|----------------------------|
| <b><i>I. Context of Domestic Violence</i></b>           | <b><i>8 questions</i></b>  |
| A. Definitions of domestic violence                     |                            |
| B. Historical and feminist perspectives                 |                            |
| C. Societal and institutional issues                    |                            |
| D. Myths and realities of domestic violence             |                            |
| <b><i>II. Dynamics of Domestic Violence</i></b>         | <b><i>12 questions</i></b> |
| A. Cycles of violence                                   |                            |
| B. Power and control                                    |                            |
| C. Types of abuse                                       |                            |
| D. Effects of domestic violence on victims              |                            |
| E. Abusers  |                            |
| <b><i>III. Legal Issues</i></b>                         | <b><i>11 questions</i></b> |
| A. Illinois Domestic Violence Act                       |                            |
| B. Federal law  |                            |
| C. Abused & Neglected Child Reporting Act               |                            |
| D. Elder Abuse and Neglect Act                          |                            |
| <b><i>IV. Serving Domestic Violence Victims</i></b>     | <b><i>25 questions</i></b> |
| A. Crisis assessment                                    |                            |
| B. Safety Planning – Preparing for the future           |                            |
| C. Working with victims                                 |                            |
| <b><i>V. Challenges in Serving Specific Victims</i></b> | <b><i>15 questions</i></b> |
| A. Children and teens                                   |                            |
| B. Older battered women                                 |                            |
| C. Lesbian, bisexual, gay & transgender clients         |                            |
| D. Faith issues   |                            |
| E. Immigrant battered women                             |                            |
| F. Domestic violence victims of color                   |                            |
| G. Substance abuse and domestic violence                |                            |
| H. HIV, AIDS and sexually transmitted diseases          |                            |
| I. People with disabilities                             |                            |
| <b><i>IV. Professionalism</i></b>                       | <b><i>4 questions</i></b>  |
| A. Certification Code of Ethics                         |                            |
| B. Violence workers' health and burnout prevention      |                            |

## Recommended Study Materials

The following references support the questions on this examination. They are available online from Amazon.com and Barnes and Noble (bn.com) as well as directly from the publishers. These books also may be available at retail stores and in public and academic libraries.

***ICDVP selected the following references as the best available sources to represent knowledge and competencies that should be familiar to a certified professional. While these references support questions in content areas important to safe and effective practice, ICDVP does not recommend any particular service model or endorse every statement in these sources. However, ICDVP affirms that domestic violence professionals should be familiar with the issues addressed in these sources.***

Kanel, Kristi. *A Guide to Crisis Intervention*, 6<sup>th</sup> Edition (2018) or 5<sup>th</sup> Edition (2014).

Publisher: Brooks/Cole, Cengage Learning

Website: [www.cengage.com](http://www.cengage.com)

Lisette, Andrea, and Richard Kraus. *Free Yourself from an Abusive Relationship* (2000).

Publisher: Hunter House Inc., Publishers

Website: [www.hunterhouse.com](http://www.hunterhouse.com)

Wilson, K.J. *When Violence Begins at Home* 2<sup>nd</sup> Edition (2005).

Publisher: Hunter House Inc., Publishers

Website: [www.hunterhouse.com](http://www.hunterhouse.com)

### **Additional References Available at [www.ilcdvp.org](http://www.ilcdvp.org)**

*Illinois Domestic Violence Act Revised 2022*. Illinois Coalition Against Domestic Violence

*A Manual for Mandated Reporters* (2020). Illinois Department of Children and Family Services

*Reporting Adult Abuse: What Professionals Need to Know* (2019). Illinois Department on Aging

Bergen, Raquel K., "Marital Rape: New Research and Directions." 2006. National Resource Center on Domestic Violence (NRC DV).

Available at [http://www.vawnet.org/applied-research-papers/print-document.php?doc\\_id=248..](http://www.vawnet.org/applied-research-papers/print-document.php?doc_id=248..)

### Part III      Sample Questions

All questions on this examination are multiple-choice with one correct answer. *These sample questions are designed to help candidates prepare for the test. None of these questions will appear on the exam.* Each question is supported by study materials cited in this study guide. The answer key and references for each question in this sample test appear after these questions.

1. Which of these is included in the Illinois Domestic Violence Act definition of intimidation of a dependent?
  - A. Repeatedly keeping a petitioner under surveillance
  - B. Failure to provide adequate food, shelter or clothing
  - C. Creating a disturbance at a petitioner's place of employment
  - D. Being forced to witness the physical confinement of another person
  
2. Which of these is **NOT** among the historical roots of feminism and the battered women's movement?
  - A. Suffragist movements in the U.S. and Britain
  - B. Efforts to abolish slavery in the U.S. in the 1800s
  - C. The medical profession's treatment of women in the 1800s
  - D. Societies for the prevention of cruelty to children and animals
  
3. Which of these was most responsible for creation of the National Coalition Against Domestic Violence (NCADV) in 1978?
  - A. The U.S. Commission on Civil Rights
  - B. The federal Office on Domestic Violence
  - C. Formation of the National Organization for Women (NOW)
  - D. New legislation increasing penalties for domestic violence and abuse
  
4. How often do men who abuse their partners also abuse their children?
  - A. 5 to 10 percent
  - B. 15 to 25 percent
  - C. Over 50 percent
  - D. Over 85 percent
  
5. Which statement most accurately describes the tension-building stage of the cycle of violence?
  - A. Abusers often become nurturing and contrite after a violent episode.
  - B. Victims often become compliant and nurturing to avoid another episode.
  - C. Batterers often appear calm and apologetic about past violent episodes.
  - D. Victims and batterers often promise each other that they will change their behavior.

6. Which form of abuse is occurring when an abuser buys himself a luxury car while refusing to allow his wife and children to receive needed medical or dental care?
  - A. Intimidation
  - B. Isolation
  - C. Blaming
  - D. Neglect
  
7. Which of these most accurately describes behavior in which an abuser refuses to allow a partner to get or keep a job?
  - A. Social abuse
  - B. Manipulation
  - C. Financial abuse
  - D. Emotional abuse
  
8. Which of these are most likely to be among the effects of domestic violence?
  - A. Victims accepting blame for their abuse
  - B. Abusers accepting blame for their abuse
  - C. Abusers changing jobs to increase family income
  - D. Victims finding work to establish economic independence
  
9. Which of these is **LEAST** likely to be used by a batterer to justify abusive behavior?
  - A. Claiming loss of control
  - B. Minimizing the abuse
  - C. Blaming the victim
  - D. A dual personality
  
10. Which of these characteristics and attitudes of abusers reflect their tendency to blow up over trivial matters?
  - A. Low tolerance levels
  - B. Substance abuse
  - C. Perfectionism
  - D. Narcissism
  
11. How does the Illinois Domestic Violence Act define a domestic violence advocate?
  - A. Only professionals trained to evaluate specific forms of abuse
  - B. Any employee or volunteer providing services to victims of abuse
  - C. Only professionals with protected rights of privileged communication
  - D. Any employee or volunteer with at least 40 hours of training in domestic violence advocacy who provides services to victims of abuse through a victim services agency

12. Which statement most accurately describes child custody provisions under Illinois criminal statutes?
- A. Illinois law presumes that parents have joint custody whenever a father has been assigned obligations for support of a child.
  - B. The mother has legal custody of any child whose parents have never been married unless a valid court order specifies otherwise.
  - C. Both parents have legal custody of any child whose parents have never been married unless a valid court order specifies otherwise.
  - D. A valid determination of paternity gives the father joint custody of a child regardless of the marital status of the parents.
13. Which statement most accurately describes firearms possession under the Illinois Domestic Violence Act?
- A. State firearms registration laws supercede federal law.
  - B. A police officer who is convicted of domestic violence may not possess a firearm or ammunition.
  - C. A person who is not a peace officer and is subject to a domestic violence order of protection must surrender his or her firearms and Firearms Ownership ID Card to local law enforcement.
  - D. No one named in a valid order of protection may purchase a firearm.
14. Which of these does the Illinois Abused and Neglected Children Reporting Act require to authorize investigations of suspected child abuse?
- A. Visible evidence of the abuse
  - B. The name of the suspected abuser
  - C. Substantial risk of harm to the child
  - D. The date and location of the suspected abuse
15. Which of these is **LEAST** important in a report of suspected adult abuse, neglect or financial exploitation?
- A. Whether the suspected abuser is aware of the report
  - B. Whether the alleged victim is in immediate danger
  - C. Whether there is any danger to an investigator
  - D. Whether the victim is aware of the report
16. Which of these is most likely to result in emergency medical treatment?
- A. Muggings
  - B. Nonmarital rape
  - C. Traffic accidents
  - D. Domestic violence

17. Which of these is **NOT** among the requirements in the definition of a crisis?
- A. Usual coping methods fail
  - B. A precipitating event occurs
  - C. The victim experiences physical injuries
  - D. Subjective distress disrupts the victim's equilibrium
18. Under which of these circumstances are victims of domestic abuse at greatest risk for further violence?
- A. After separation or filing for divorce from the abuser
  - B. While sleeping at home with the abuser
  - C. After seeking an order of protection
  - D. During a visit to a qualified shelter
19. Which of these is most likely to benefit from a no-suicide contract?
- A. A low-risk suicidal client
  - B. A middle-risk suicidal client
  - C. A high-risk suicidal client
  - D. A suicidal client who has made prior attempts
20. Which of these is the **LEAST** helpful way to listen to a victim of domestic violence?
- A. Suspend all judgments and assumptions about her situation.
  - B. Let her tell her entire story uninterrupted, including silent pauses.
  - C. Repeat what she says word for word to indicate that you are listening.
  - D. Validate any mixed feelings of affection she may have for her abuser.
21. Which of these should be included in an abuse victim's plan to remain safe during a violent episode?
- A. Avoid arguing in rooms without access to a telephone.
  - B. If an argument seems unavoidable, try to have it in a bedroom.
  - C. Keep all doors and windows securely bolted and locked during any arguments.
  - D. Ask a trusted neighbor to call police if he or she hears a disturbance coming from your home.
22. Which of these is **LEAST** important to include in an abuse victim's safety plan?
- A. A list of nearby family and friends
  - B. Medical records for all family members
  - C. Emergency cash, credit cards and checkbook
  - D. Birth certificates for the victim and his/her children

23. Why are support groups directed by women the best source of help for many victims of domestic violence?
- A. Men are ineffective as advocates for battered women.
  - B. Women can help each other adapt to their institutionalized roles.
  - C. Women may gain strength from understanding that they are not alone.
  - D. Only women are capable of understanding the needs of victims of abuse.
24. How should a domestic violence professional adapt attending behaviors for different cultural and ethnic groups being served in the ABC model of crisis intervention for victims of domestic violence?
- A. By mastering a fixed set of behaviors common to all groups
  - B. By learning how each group being served responds to each behavior
  - C. By referring clients from unfamiliar groups to licensed professionals
  - D. By training every crisis worker to master behaviors for every group
25. Which of these is **LEAST** likely to be among the effects of domestic violence on children?
- A. Immaturity in peer relationships
  - B. Limited tolerance for frustration
  - C. Uncertainty about appropriate behavior
  - D. Special insight into the dynamics of violence
26. Which of these makes identification of abuse among same-sex partners especially difficult?
- A. Homophobic attitudes of the partners
  - B. Patterns of abuse that are unique to same-sex partners
  - C. Reluctance of both partners to admit that abuse occurred
  - D. Legal prohibitions against assisting same-sex victims of abuse
27. Which of these is **LEAST** likely to be the country of origin for battered Latina or Hispanic women?
- A. Morocco
  - B. Guatemala
  - C. El Salvador
  - D. Dominican Republic
28. Which of these is **NOT** among the mental symptoms when workers who serve batterers or their partners are under stress?
- A. Dulled senses
  - B. Forgetfulness or confusion
  - C. Gradual increase in concentration
  - D. Negative attitudes and self-criticism



## Answers and References for Sample Questions

This sample test illustrates the types of questions that appear on the examination. The references that support each question are indicated below to help you prepare for this examination. Specific page numbers in some of the supplemental references may change when state departments issue revisions of the referenced documents.

<b>Sample Question</b>	<b>Test Content Area</b>	<b>Correct Answer</b>	<b>Supporting Reference(s)</b>
1.	Context of Domestic Violence	D	IDVA 2022 page 6
2.	Context of Domestic Violence	C	Wilson 2 <sup>nd</sup> Ed, pages 312-16
3.	Context of Domestic Violence	A	Wilson 2 <sup>nd</sup> Ed, pages 340-46
4.	Context of Domestic Violence	C	Lisette, page 66; Wilson 2 <sup>nd</sup> Ed page 32
5.	Dynamics of Domestic Violence	B	Lisette, pp. 9-11; Wilson 2 <sup>nd</sup> Ed, pp. 28-29
6.	Dynamics of Domestic Violence	D	Lisette, pages 14-30
7.	Dynamics of Domestic Violence	C	Lisette, page 45; Wilson 2 <sup>nd</sup> Ed, pp. 19-20
8.	Dynamics of Domestic Violence	A	Wilson 2 <sup>nd</sup> Ed, pages 23-26
9.	Dynamics of Domestic Violence	D	Wilson 2 <sup>nd</sup> Ed, pages 23-28
10.	Dynamics of Domestic Violence	A	Lisette, pages 52-57
11.	Legal Issues – IDVA	D	IDVA 2022, page 50
12.	Legal Issues – IDVA	B	IDVA 2022, page 81
13.	Legal Issues – IDVA	C	IDVA 2022, page 78
14.	Legal Issues – Child Abuse	C	Manual for Mandated Reporters, pages 8-9
15.	Legal Issues – Adult Abuse	A	Reporting Adult Abuse, pages 12-14
16.	Serving Domestic Violence Victims	D	Wilson 2 <sup>nd</sup> Ed, pages 182-83
17.	Serving Domestic Violence Victims	C	Kanel 6 <sup>th</sup> Ed, page 1, 5 <sup>th</sup> Ed., page 2
18.	Serving Domestic Violence Victims	A	Wilson 2 <sup>nd</sup> Ed, pages 30-31, 197-98
19.	Serving Domestic Violence Victims	B	Kanel 6 <sup>th</sup> Ed, pp 76-78, 5 <sup>th</sup> Ed., pp. 90-91
20.	Serving Domestic Violence Victims	C	Wilson 2 <sup>nd</sup> Ed, pages 158-61
21.	Serving Domestic Violence Victims	D	Wilson 2 <sup>nd</sup> Ed, Appendix 1, pp. 347-55
22.	Serving Domestic Violence Victims	A	Lisette, pages 118-121; Wilson 2 <sup>nd</sup> Ed pages 354-55
23.	Serving Domestic Violence Victims	C	Wilson 2 <sup>nd</sup> Ed, pages 250-51
24.	Serving Domestic Violence Victims	B	Kanel 6 <sup>th</sup> Ed, pp 47-49, 5 <sup>th</sup> Ed., pp. 52-3
25.	Serving Specific Victims	D	Wilson 2 <sup>nd</sup> Ed, pages 38-40
26.	Serving Specific Victims	C	Lisette, pages 97-98; Wilson 2 <sup>nd</sup> Ed pages 135-38
27.	Serving Specific Victims	A	Wilson 2 <sup>nd</sup> Ed, pages 123-25
28.	Professionalism	C	Wilson 2 <sup>nd</sup> Ed, pages 291-93