

 VERMONT DEPARTMENT FOR CHILDREN AND FAMILIES Family Services Policy Manual		<h1>135</h1>
Chapter:	Special Casework Issues	
Subject:	Domestic Violence: Policy Statement	Page 1 of 1
Approved:	Don Mandelkorn, Division Director	Effective: 3/31/04 FINAL
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Purpose

In 2003, the Domestic Violence Advisory Board submitted its final report to the Commissioner. The Advisory Board recommended that the division issue broad policy to guide the development of other policies, and that will guide practice in the field. This policy is issued in response to that recommendation.

Policy

It is critical to the safety and well being of children that the Family Services Division actively work towards achieving safety for all family members. Given this, FS will adopt practices and policies that:

- Removes blame for domestic violence from victims;
- Examine and implement strategies to support victims of domestic violence in providing safety and well-being for their children;
- Hold offenders responsible for the violence and the corresponding risk that violence poses to children.

Policies that do not incorporate these principles risk endangering the safety, well-being and permanency needs of those children at risk of and experiencing the effects of child abuse and neglect.