

PROCEDURAL GUIDE  
FOR  
HANDLING INTIMATE  
PARTNER VIOLENCE CASES  
(Revised 2011)

## FOREWORD

Intimate partner violence is a complex problem deeply woven into the social fabric and the needs of intimate partner violence cases are multiple. A multi-disciplinary and cross-sectoral approach involving the co-ordination and collaboration of a range of social, legal, financial and health resources is required to tackle the problem of intimate partner violence. In Hong Kong, there are mechanisms at different levels to ensure effective co-operation among the concerned parties.

The Working Group on Combating Violence (Working Group), which comprises representatives from the Labour and Welfare Bureau (LWB), Security Bureau, Education Bureau, Social Welfare Department (SWD), Legal Aid Department, Hong Kong Police Force (the Police), Home Affairs Department, Housing Department, Department of Health, Hospital Authority (HA), Department of Justice, Information Services Department, the Hong Kong Council of Social Service (HKCSS) and non-governmental organisations (NGOs), is responsible for mapping out strategies and approaches to tackle the problem of intimate partner violence and sexual violence in Hong Kong.

The frontline staff of different departments and NGOs also work together closely to help the victims of intimate partner violence and their family members. In order to promote a co-ordinated response in the intervention process and encourage an attitude of co-operation and collaboration among professionals, and thereby provide the most appropriate and effective approach to counter the impact of intimate partner violence, the Working Group has developed a multi-disciplinary guidelines, the “Procedural Guidelines for Handling Battered Spouse Cases”, in 2004 (the Guidelines) for use by different parties concerned. Owing to service development in recent years, there is a need to revise the Guidelines. A Task Group comprising representatives from LWB, SWD, the Police, HA, NGOs and HKCSS was formed in 2007. The Task Group met on eight occasions and prepared the revised version ‘Procedural Guide for Handling Intimate Partner Violence Cases (revised 2011)’ (the Procedural Guide) as follows. The revised version was endorsed by the Working Group at its meeting on 25.5.2011.

In the future, updating of any change in factual information will be done by the SWD with input from the professionals concerned. The latest version of the Procedural Guide is available at the SWD Homepage for reference of all professionals.

## **PREFACE**

The “Procedural Guide for Handling Intimate Partner Violence Cases” (Revised 2011) (English version) has been uploaded to the SWD Homepage since July 2011 for easy reference by professionals such as the Police, social workers and medical and health personnel. During the process of translating the “Procedural Guide” into Chinese version, the parts related to Personal Data (Privacy) Ordinance, Cap 486 and the names, telephone numbers and addresses of relevant Government Departments / Organisations / Service Units have been revised and updated in light of the latest information available.

Social Welfare Department  
December 2012