

## **Relationship between the facility and AVP local group**

### Guidelines in working within prison:

- All participants in AVP workshops are volunteers.
- Participation is open to all inmates.
- Registration for AVP workshops is according to the inmate's sign up date. A system needs to be devised to assure this happens.
- Participation in AVP workshops shall not be considered a requirement for any DOC program.
- Inmates have excused absences from their normal program/work assignments to attend AVP workshops.
- Facilities will work with AVP to accommodate the request for 22 hours workshops.
- Facilities are expected to provide appropriate space for the workshops.
- In order to preserve confidentiality of participants, DOC staff is not present in the workshop rooms without prior approval of the group. Of course, this should not interfere with the correctional facility staff's ability to perform essential duties.

### Additional information:

- The appropriate AVP body conveys these guidelines to the participating facility or DOC, and devises with that agency the method used to communicate the guidelines to the facilities.
- Employees of DOC are encouraged to participate in and facilitate community workshops, once trained, but may not do so in prison workshops.
- Local groups and regional, or statewide organizations should consider and implement ways of letting corrections staff know the philosophy and format of AVP workshops.
- In order to maintain AVP's program integrity and autonomy, we do not accept funds from DOC, except for provision of meals and certain supplies during workshops. Funds that come from inmates or that are controlled by them are welcome.
- Local groups will appoint an outside Prison Coordinator for each facility where they conduct workshops. Prison Coordinators are responsible for maintaining a good working relationship with local facilities and for dealing with problems as they arise.
- Prison Coordinators, working with the Local Group, will ensure that outside facilitators are cognizant of prison regulations affecting volunteers and AVP workshops.
- The content and process of AVP workshops remain within the province of AVP. Prison officials are not involved with AVP affairs.