

Brains At Risk Frequently Asked Questions (May 2016)

1. What is the goal of the Brains At Risk?

Brains At Risk's primary objective is to reduce the number of repeat driving offenders through education and raising awareness about brain injury; thereby reducing the number of death and traumatic brain injuries caused by dangerous driving.

2. What is the best way to contact Brains At Risk?

The Brains At Risk office is open Monday through Friday 9:00 am – 4:00 pm. Please feel free to call: 1-508-475-0036 to speak with our Court-Related Prevention Coordinator. If a Brains At Risk representative is unavailable please leave a message and we will return your call. All voicemail messages are returned within 48 hours.

You may also contact Brains At Risk via email at brainsatrisk@biama.org, faxes to 508-475-0039.

3. How can I sign up for the Brains At Risk seminar?

Brains At Risk is a court-referral program for individuals ages 17 and older. Referrals can be made by the courts and/or other supervising agencies. Self- Referrals are also accepted. Please call for details (1-508-475-0036) Referral forms are available to download on this webpage, as well as through online submittal. Additional forms and information on the program can be emailed, faxed or mailed by request.

4. I had an offense out of state; can Brains At Risk be used to fill a victim impact requirement?

Yes, Brains At Risk is an appropriate alternative to a traditional victim impact panel. Individuals from throughout the United States have attended this program to fulfill victim impact requirements. It is recommended that you ascertain approval from your supervising agency before you contact us to sign up for the seminar.

When you are ready to sign up for the seminar, please call 508-475-0036 from 9:00 am – 4:00 pm, and tell the Brains At Risk Program Administrators that you had an out of state offense.

5. Who teaches Brains At Risk?

Brains At Risk is conducted by trained Brains At Risk presenters. Presenters bring with them a variety of experience with brain injury, rehabilitation and/or prevention. All Brains At Risk presenters share a passion for brain injury prevention and education.

6. My probation officer faxed my referral; how do I know where the seminar is held?

The Brains At Risk office processes all referrals and will send you a seminar letter with the time, date, and directions for your scheduled seminar.

If you do not receive a seminar letter within two weeks of the referral being faxed, please immediately contact the Brains At Risk office at 508-475-0036 during business hours. It is your responsibility to follow up to determine the date of your scheduled seminar.

7. When and where is the Brains At Risk seminar conducted?

Brains At Risk has sites throughout Massachusetts, serving more than one hundred cities and towns. The Brains At Risk staff will assign referred individuals to the next available seminar, closest to their home. Brains At Risk is held during the day or evening hours, Monday through Friday. Unfortunately, BIA-MA's Brains At Risk Programs are not conducted on the weekends.

8. When I send or submit a rescheduling fee, how will I know where and when I will attend my rescheduled class?

The Brains At Risk staff assign referred individuals, as well as rescheduled individuals to the next available seminar, closest to their home. A letter will be mailed to your home indicating your new date, time and location of class. Every effort is made to accommodate individuals request; feel free to call and talk with our Brains At Risk Staff.

9. I lost my license; how can I get to my program?

Brains At Risk understands that transportation can be an issue. However, all individuals are responsible to provide their own transportation and are expected to attend their scheduled seminar. If you have a restricted driver's license or a hardship license please call our office and we can assist you.

10. I was scheduled for a Brains At Risk seminar that is not convenient for my schedule; can I change it?

As Brains At Risk is a court-ordered program, it is imperative you make every effort to attend your scheduled seminar. However if you cannot appear at the scheduled seminar, you may request a postponement for a more convenient date. Accommodations will be made if you call the Brains At Risk office before 21 days of the date of receiving your Brains At Risk seminar letter. Rescheduling after the 21 days will cost you an additional \$65 fee before you can be moved to a new seminar.

11. What do I need to bring with me to the seminar?

Please be sure to bring the seminar letter, which advises you of the date, time, location, a pen or pencil, and a money order/bank check made out to BIA-MA (Brain Injury Association of Massachusetts) to pay for the seminar.

Money orders are the *only* accepted form of payment.

Individuals without proper payment will ***not be allowed to attend*** and must reschedule at a cost of \$65.00

12. What can I expect at the Brains At Risk seminar?

Brains At Risk is an eye opening experience for attendees. The science-based curriculum combines videos, graphics and group discussion to bring to life the consequences of drunk/drug, dangerous and distracted driving.

One of the most powerful and compelling components of the program is a personal testimony by survivors of brain injury, who share their experiences with attendees.

13. I missed my scheduled seminar; how can I reschedule?

You and the supervising agency referring you to our program (court, Probation Officer, etc) will receive a "Failure to Appear" notice in the mail, which will explain how to reschedule your seminar.

14. Will my probation officer (or supervising agency) be notified that I missed the seminar?

Yes, Probation Officers (or other supervising agency) will be notified of all individuals' completion or failures for the seminar they attended or failed to attend.

15. I have to work the day that I am scheduled for Brains At Risk; can I be late?

The Brains At Risk does not permit late arrivals to attend the program. In order to meet the expectations set forth by BIA-MA, the Massachusetts courts and other referring agencies, we are unable to permit individuals that are late from attending the seminar. **There are no exceptions.**

16. Is the Brains At Risk conducted in other languages?

Yes, Brains At Risk is offered in Spanish. For details, please contact the Brains At Risk office during business hours.