1. **What is the Brains At Risk program?**

Brains At Risk is an awareness and prevention program for self and court-referred individuals ages 17 and older. Brains At Risk was developed over twenty-five years ago by the Brain Injury Association of Massachusetts (BIA-MA). Brains at Risk links dangerous driving behaviors to the devastating effects of traumatic brain injury (TBI). The curriculum combines video, graphics and group discussions to demonstrate the importance of making positive choices behind the wheel. One of the most powerful and compelling components of the program is the personal testimonies of those whose lives have been permanently affected by brain injury.

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

The Brains At Risk office is open **Monday -Friday 9:00 am – 4:00 pm.** Please feel free to call: **1-508-475-0036** to speak with our Brains At Risk staff. If a Brains At Risk representative is unavailable please leave a message and we will return your call. Voicemail messages are typically 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 program?**

Brains At Risk referrals can be made by the courts and/or other supervising agencies. Check with your supervising agency to see if they sent a referral on your behalf. If your PO has not sent over your referral form or you are self-referred, you can download a referral form on the Brains At Risk webpage. Print and fill out the referral form and email or fax an image of the referral to 508-475-0039 (fax) or brainsatrisk@biama.org. If you are unable to print the form, we can mail one to you. Please call to request form. If you do not receive a program letter within two weeks of the referral being faxed or emailed, please immediately contact the Brains At Risk office at 508-475-0036. It is the referred individual’s responsibility to follow up to determine the date of your scheduled program.

4. **Is there a fee to take this program?**

Yes, there is a $50 fee to take the Brains At Risk program. The presenter collects the fee on the day your program is held. **The only form of payment that will be accepted the day of the program are: a money order or a bank issued check. Personal checks, credit cards, or cash will not be accepted.**

5. **I had an offense out of state; can Brains At Risk be used to fulfill 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, due to being able to hear from survivors of brain injury, or individuals impacted by brain injury in some way during this program. It is recommended that you ascertain approval from your supervising agency before you contact us to sign up for the program.

6. **I live out of state, but need to take the Brains At Risk program, is this program offered in any other state?**

Brains At Risk is a program exclusive to the Brain Injury Association of Massachusetts and is only available in the state of Massachusetts. For those who still need to take the program, we will work with you to get something that fits your schedule.

7. **Does Brains At Risk offer an online program?**

BIA-MA's Brains At Risk program is not currently available to take online.
8. 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 knowledge. All Brains At Risk presenters share a passion for brain injury prevention and education.

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

The Brains At Risk office processes all referrals and will send you a program letter with the time, date, and location for your scheduled program. If you do not receive a program letter within two weeks of the referral being sent, please immediately contact the Brains At Risk office at 508-475-0036. It is your responsibility to follow up to determine the date of your scheduled program.

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

It is encouraged you make every effort to attend your scheduled program. However, if you cannot appear at the scheduled program, you may request a date or location that may better fit your specific schedule. Accommodations will be made if you call the Brains At Risk office before 21 days of your scheduled program. Rescheduling after the 21 days will cost you an additional $65 fee before you can be moved to a new program. Any additional questions on rescheduling, feel free to call our office 508-475-0036.

11. When and where is the Brains At Risk program conducted?

Brains At Risk has numerous sites throughout Massachusetts. The Brains At Risk staff will assign referred individuals to the next available program, closest to their home. A letter is then sent with the program details to the address that was on the received referral form. If you do not receive a program letter within two weeks of the referral being sent, please immediately contact the Brains At Risk office at 508-475-0036. It is the referred individual’s responsibility to follow up to determine the date of your scheduled program. Brains At Risk programs are offered during the day or evening hours, Monday-Friday, with an occasional Saturday program (Saturday class space is limited).

12. I am unable to drive myself to the program; 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 program. If you have a restricted driver’s license or a hardship license, please call our office and we can assist you 508-475-0036.

13. What do I need to bring with me to the program?

Please be sure to bring the program letter, which advises you of the date, time, location, a pen or pencil, and a $50.00 money order/bank check made out to BIA-MA (Brain Injury Association of Massachusetts) to pay for the program. Personal checks, credit cards, or cash will not be accepted.
PLEASE NOTE: If you have paid a $65.00 rescheduling fee; this is a separate payment from the program fee of $50.00. You will still be expected to take a $50 money order to the program you attend. Money orders are the only accepted form of payment the day of the program.

14. I missed my scheduled Brains At Risk Program; how can I reschedule?

You must first submit a reschedule fee online of $65.00 (link on our Brains At Risk website). You may also send in a money order made payable to BIA-MA in the amount of $65.00 with your named clearly printed on the money order, please send to:

BIA-MA
30 Lyman Street, Suite 10, Westborough, MA 01581.

You will then be reassigned to the next available program, closest to your home. You will not be reassigned to another Brains At Risk program until you submit this fee. If you have questions concerning this fee, feel free to call our office 508-475-0036.

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

Once a reschedule fee is submitted the Brains At Risk staff assign rescheduled individuals to the next available program, closest to your home. A letter will be mailed to your home indicating your new date, time and location of program. Every effort is made to accommodate individuals request; feel free to call and talk with our Brains At Risk staff after a reschedule payment is made to determine your program date and time.

16. Will my probation officer (or supervising agency) be notified that I attended or that I missed the program?

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

17. What if I am arrive just a few minutes after my scheduled start time?

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 program. The program doors will be shut and locked at the time you have indicated as a start time on your program letter. We highly suggest allowing for 20-30 extra minutes, for travel and parking time. Some locations have limited parking situations.

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

At this time BIA-MA is not offering any programs conducted in any other languages. If you are attending our Brains At Risk program and will need an interpreter, you are encouraged to take an interpreter of your choice with you to the program, (the interpreter will not be charged a fee for the program) please indicate on your referral form or call us to let us know you will be attending with an interpreter. If you are unable to find an interpreter or need additional information on this matter, please contact the Brains At Risk office 508-475-0036.

19. Will I receive a letter of completion in-hand stating I completed the program at the end of my assigned program?
You will not receive a hard copy of your letter of completion at the end of your program. The Brains At Risk office will automatically send over this letter of completion to the referring agency. If you need that letter of completion for the next day, due to being in a court situation, please be sure to let your presenter know, as well as call the Brains At Risk line 508-475-0036 and leave a message stating your urgent need of your letter of completion.

20. Am I able to get a letter of completion for this program sent to my home?
   If you need a copy of your letter of completion from the program you completed sent to your home for your own records or RMV purposes, please reach out to us at 508-475-0036. You will not automatically receive a letter of completion at your home address without requesting it via a phone call or email to our office.