

What if you need urgent police protection?

If you feel threatened or worried about your safety and are in need of immediate protection dial Triple Zero (000).

POLICE CAN ISSUE AN APPREHENDED DOMESTIC VIOLENCE ORDER IMMEDIATELY FOR YOUR PROTECTION.

A police issued ADVO is effective immediately for your protection but you will still have to attend court to finalise the order.

AN ADVO DOES NOT GIVE AN OFFENDER A CRIMINAL RECORD. BY TAKING OUT AN ADVO YOU HELP PROTECT YOURSELF, YOUR CHILDREN, FAMILY AND COMMUNITY.

Who can give me more information about going to court?

Contact your local police station. They will be able to help you or refer you to services in your area that can help. You can also ask to speak to a Domestic Violence Liaison Officer (DVLO) or Aboriginal Community Liaison Officer (ACLO). They will be able to tell you what your rights are.

Domestic Violence Evidence in Chief (DVEC)

("Evidence in Chief" means that victims/witnesses can tell their story in their own words)

DVEC allows police to video or audio record statements taken from domestic violence victims, that can be used as all or part of their evidence in court.

SERVICES AVAILABLE FOR ABORIGINAL VICTIMS OF DOMESTIC AND FAMILY VIOLENCE IN NSW

NSW Attorney Generals Department Victims
Services Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander
Contact Line Phone – 1800 019 123

NSW Rape Crisis Centre
Phone – 1800 424 017
Web – www.rapecrisis.com.au

Wirringa Baiya Aboriginal Women's Legal Centre
Phone – 1800 686 587
Web – www.wirringabaiya.org.au

Indigenous Women's Legal Contact Line
Phone – 1800 639 784
Web – www.womenslegalnsw.asn.au

Domestic Violence 24 hour Helpline
Phone – 1800 65 64 63

Kids Helpline
Phone – 1800 551 800
Web – www.kidshelp.com.au

DoCS Helpline
Phone – 132 111

VOCAL (Victims of Crime League)
02 49614755

NSW Elder Abuse Helpline
1800 628 221

Domestic and Family Violence

Working Together To Build A Safer Community



NSW Police Force

NSW Police Force is committed to working in partnership with Aboriginal people to protect victims of domestic and family violence.

What is Domestic and Family Violence?

Domestic and family violence is a crime that takes many forms including emotional, verbal, spiritual and psychological abuse, intimidation, harassment, stalking, physical and sexual assault. It also can include animal abuse by targeting pets and damaging personal or joint property. Domestic and family violence is committed by one person against the person they live with or who they have an intimate relationship with but don't live together. The offender can also be a family or extended family member.

Victims of domestic and family violence can be women, men, children, young people, mothers, fathers, aunties, uncles, Elders, and carers. They can be anyone in an intimate relationship including gay, lesbian, bisexual, transgender, intersex and queer people.

People who commit acts of violence on members of their family, extended family or community can be anyone within the community, even people in positions of power.

DOMESTIC AND FAMILY VIOLENCE HURTS WOMEN, CHILDREN, FAMILIES AND COMMUNITIES.

Police may apply for an ADVO for your protection even if you're not sure you want one.

It's not a dog act to call the cops on a woman basher, it's a dog act NOT to.

**Don't stand by, stand up!
Report Domestic Violence.**

What are some examples of Domestic/Family Violence?

- ✦ **Physical or sexual assault** – like hitting, kicking or any unwanted sexual behaviour or sexual assault.
- ✦ **Verbal abuse and insults** – yelling, shouting, swearing, putting a person down
- ✦ **Isolation** – keeping a person away from their supports like friends and family or controlling where a person goes and who they see
- ✦ **Financial** – taking or controlling a person's money or how they spend it, stealing
- ✦ **Emotional abuse** – telling a person they are worthless, bad or not valued or loved
- ✦ **Threats and intimidation** – scaring a person by telling them they will be hurt by an act of violence
- ✦ **Harassment and stalking** – following somebody, unwanted contact (like phone calls, SMS, Facebook), turning up at places where a victim is (like their home or workplace)
- ✦ **“Outing”** or threatening to **“out”** someone's sexuality or gender identity with the intent to cause damage to someone's reputation or cause trouble in their family.

Why should it be reported to the police?

Domestic and family violence is a crime. It has devastating and long lasting effects on whole families and communities.

It can be hard to tell the police if you have been a victim of violence, especially if the person who hurt you is a family member or someone you love.

Just because the offender is a family member or partner, it does not give them the right to hurt you.

Violence is still a crime even if the offender is a family member or a loved one.

You might be afraid to tell the police if you have been a victim of domestic or family violence because you're not sure what the police will do once you take a report. The police can help by telling you what will happen once you make a report and what support services can help you.

What can be done?

Police can arrest and charge a person who is violent towards you. They can apply for Apprehended Domestic Violence Order on your behalf. Your children can be included on the ADVO and they can get **support from other organisations.**

An ADVO is an order made to protect people from violence, threats and harassment. Police **must apply** for an ADVO on your behalf if they suspect that violence has been or is likely to be committed against you or your children.

Other conditions can be included on the order if they are needed. For example an order can state that the offender must not approach you within 12 hours of drinking alcohol or taking illegal drugs.

**VIOLENCE IS NEVER THE VICTIMS
FAULT THE BLAME LIES ONLY
WITH OFFENDERS.**

What happens if the offender breaks one of the conditions of the ADVO?

If an offender breaks one of the conditions, you should immediately contact your local police and report it. The police may arrest and charge the offender with 'breaching' the conditions of the ADVO.