

How to respond to a family violence intervention order

This booklet is for you if an intervention order has been made against you, or you have been accused of family violence.



Do you need this booklet in a different format?

Please go to www.legalaid.vic.gov.au and search *How to respond to a family violence intervention order* for an accessible version of this booklet. You can also ring (03) 9269 0234 and ask for Publications. We can talk with you about what you need.

Produced by Victoria Legal Aid

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For free information about the law and how we can help you:

- visit our website www.legalaid.vic.gov.au
- call 1300 792 387 Monday to Friday, 8 am to 6 pm, excluding public holidays

For business queries, call (03) 9269 0234

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Disclaimer: The material in this publication is a general guide only. It is not legal advice. If you need to, please get legal advice about your own particular situation.

Changes to the law: The law changes all the time. To check for changes you can visit our website or call us.

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CONTENTS

About this booklet	1
What do these words mean?	2
Family violence	4
Family violence intervention orders	6
How does an intervention order affect me?	8
Role of the police	11
The family violence intervention order process	12
Before going to court	13
Going to court	15
The first hearing	16
Contested hearing	18
Final intervention order	19
Disagreeing with the magistrate's decision	20
Breaking an intervention order	21
Ending or changing an intervention order	22
Where to get help	24



Victoria Legal Aid

Victoria Legal Aid is a government-funded agency set up to ensure that people who cannot afford to pay for a private lawyer can get help with their legal problems. We provide free information for all Victorians, family dispute resolution for disadvantaged families, provide lawyers on duty in most courts and tribunals in Victoria, and fund legal representation for people who meet our eligibility criteria. We help Victorian people with legal problems about criminal matters, family breakdown, child protection, family violence, child support, immigration, social security, mental health, discrimination, guardianship and administration, tenancy and debt.

ABOUT THIS BOOKLET

This booklet explains:

- **family violence intervention orders** and how they work
- how to respond to an intervention order **application**
- how to get ready for a court hearing
- what happens at court
- where you can go for help.

This booklet does not have information about personal safety intervention orders (orders involving non-**family members**). Please visit the Victoria Legal Aid website for more information on personal safety intervention orders. **See** 'Where to get help' on page 24.

Legal words

To help you, we explain some words in 'What do these words mean?' on the next page. These words are highlighted in **bold** the first time they appear in each section.

Getting legal help

This booklet has general information, not legal advice. Family violence intervention orders are serious, and you should get legal advice.

Legal advice will help you understand what your options are. It is best to call or see a lawyer before you go to court.

A lawyer can:

- help you understand what a family violence intervention order means
- give you advice about responding to an order
- explain the law and your options
- help you prepare for court
- speak for you at court, including discussing **conditions**
- help sort out any other legal issues, like family law.

See 'Where to get help' on page 24.

Getting support

This process can be stressful. Support services can give you practical, emotional, financial and other help. They can also help you if you decide you want to change your behaviour. These services are confidential.

See 'Where to get help' on page 24 for service information.

WHAT DO THESE WORDS MEAN?

affected family member – a person who is or has been affected by family violence. It can also include children

applicant – the person asking for the intervention order. It can be your family member or someone else, like a police officer

application – the form used to apply for an intervention order

conditions – the rules of the intervention order

contested hearing – a court hearing where the magistrate hears evidence and decides whether to make a final intervention order

contravention – when someone breaks an intervention order or safety notice. Also called a 'breach'

criminal record – a record of any crimes that a person has been found guilty of and the punishment they got

custody – under arrest. You are not free to leave

duty lawyer – a lawyer from Victoria Legal Aid or a community legal centre who can give people free legal advice at court

evidence – information used in court (documents or witnesses) to help the magistrate make a decision

exclusion order – a condition of an intervention order that means you cannot go into your home

family member – anyone you treat as family, including your partner, ex-partner, children, relatives, guardian or carer

family violence – behaviour from one family member to another that includes being violent, abusive and causing fear. It includes physical, sexual, emotional, verbal, social and financial violence. It includes damage to property, and harassment. For children, it includes seeing, hearing and being exposed to this behaviour

family violence intervention order – a court order that has conditions to protect family members, children and property. If the order is broken, police can charge the person

family violence safety notice – a document from the police to protect an adult from family violence

interim order – a temporary intervention order that lasts until a magistrate decides on a final order. Also called an interim intervention order

magistrate – the judge in the Magistrates' Court

registrar – a person who works at the court

respondent – this is you

summons – a form that tells a person when and where they must go to court

undertaking – a formal promise to the court



FAMILY VIOLENCE

What is family violence?

Family violence is when a person makes their **family member** feel unsafe and afraid. It is when they are controlling or threatening. It can start with small things and get worse over time.

Family violence includes:

- hitting or pushing a family member, and other violent behaviour (physical abuse)
- threatening to hurt a family member, their pet, or to damage their property
- forcing a family member to have sex (sexual abuse)
- calling a family member names, putting them down, or stopping them from seeing their family or friends (emotional or psychological abuse)
- controlling a family member's money (financial abuse)
- forcing a family member to get married or pay money to their partner's family.

Children are badly affected by family violence. The law says that a child experiences family violence if they:

- hear or see family violence
- help a family member who has been hurt
- see damaged property in the family home
- are at a family violence incident when the police arrive.

The law says family violence is wrong and must stop.

Who is a family member?

A family member can be:

- someone you have an intimate personal relationship with. For example, your husband, wife, boyfriend, girlfriend, partner or the parent of your child. Intimate means a close relationship, not whether you have sex
- someone you used to have an intimate personal relationship with. For example, your ex-husband, ex-wife or ex-partner
- your child or stepchild
- a relative by birth, marriage or adoption. For example, your brother-in-law
- someone you treat like a family member. For example, a carer, guardian or someone related to you in your culture.
- Family violence can happen in all families, including lesbian, gay, bi-sexual, trans and gender diverse, intersex, queer and questioning (LGBTIQ) families.



FAMILY VIOLENCE INTERVENTION ORDERS

What is a family violence intervention order?

A **family violence intervention order** protects a **family member** from any kind of violent behaviour.

There are different types of family violence intervention orders.

- A **family violence safety notice** – police can give this to you when they respond to a report of **family violence**. They must give a copy to you and to your family member. You will need go to court. This notice will last until you go to court, which will be in 14 days. At court, police will apply for a longer order.
- An **interim order** – this is a short-term order. A **magistrate** can make an interim order if they believe a family member needs protection straight away.
- A **final order** – this is a longer-term order. A magistrate will make this order if they believe a family member used family violence and is likely to use it again. A magistrate can also make the order if you agree (consent) to it.

Even though these orders have different names, they all have **conditions** (rules) to stop behaviour that makes a family member feel unsafe. For example, an order might say you cannot go near your family member or threaten them. An order can also protect children, property or other people supporting your family member. If you do not follow these rules, police can arrest you.

For more information on conditions **see** 'How does an intervention order affect me?' on page 8. For more information on what happens if you break an order **see** 'Breaking an intervention order' on page 21.

Intervention orders are about changing behaviour. Ask yourself if your family member has a reason for saying that they are afraid of you. There are confidential services that can help you with this. **See** 'Where to get help' on page 24 for support services.

What if my family member does not want an order?

The police can apply for an intervention order for your family member even if they do not want one. This is a police decision. The police must put your family member's safety and the safety of any children first.

If your family member does not want an order, a magistrate can still make one.

Even if your family member asks you to do something that breaks the order, you must not do it. You are responsible for following the conditions on the order. You could get a large fine or go to jail if you break the rules of the order.



HOW DOES AN INTERVENTION ORDER AFFECT ME?

What can an intervention order stop me doing?

An intervention order has rules called **conditions** in it.

You must follow these conditions. If you do not understand them, speak to a lawyer.

See 'Where to get help' on page 24.

The **magistrate** can include any conditions they believe will protect your **family member**. They might stop you from:

- hurting, harassing or threatening your family member
- monitoring, stalking or keeping your family member under surveillance
- going near them, their home, school or where they work
- telephoning, messaging or contacting them including through social media
- damaging or threatening to damage their property
- getting someone else to do any of the things you cannot do
- having a gun or other weapon.

Orders can also protect children.

You have the right to argue against the conditions or ask the magistrate to change the conditions. It is up to the magistrate to decide. This may not be decided on the first day at court. **See** 'The first hearing' on page 16.

Do I have to leave home?

If one of your conditions is an **exclusion order**, you will need to leave the home.

You do not lose your rights to the house or your things if an exclusion order is made.

If you want to get your things, you should talk to the police or your lawyer so you can do this safely without breaking the order.

You can also ask the magistrate not to make an exclusion order. The magistrate will decide. You may have to wait until the **contested hearing** to ask for this.

Before a magistrate makes an exclusion order they will look at the situation, including whether there are children.

Get legal help if there is a condition that you must leave your home. You can also get other help, such as help to find a place to live. See 'Where to get help' on page 24.

Will I still be able to see my children?

Intervention orders can protect children. The magistrate will always ask if your children have heard, seen or been exposed to any family violence. This can include seeing someone crying after **family violence**.

If your children have seen, heard or been exposed to family violence the magistrate will include them on your family member's order. The magistrate may also make separate orders for the children. The magistrate can do this even if your family member does not agree. It is the magistrate's job to make sure children are safe.

Even if you have family law orders about your children, the magistrate can make an intervention order that stops you seeing the children. It depends on what that order says and what your family member asks for.

This is why legal advice is important. A lawyer can help you decide what to do.

If the order affects you seeing your children, get legal help as soon as possible. You have options. See 'Where to get help' on page 24.

Will I get a criminal record?

It is not a crime if you have an intervention order made against you.

But you could be charged with a crime if you:

- do not follow the conditions on the order
- act violently towards your family member in any way or damage their property.

If you are charged and found guilty, it may be included on a **criminal record**.

Will the order affect my job?

Maybe. An order may affect your job if it stops you going to work. An order may affect your job if you work with or near your family member. There are options, so talk to a lawyer if you are in this situation. See 'Where to get help' on page 24.

You may not be able to get a licence to work as a security officer or get a security clearance. If you need security clearance for your job, check with your employer.

If you are found guilty of breaking an intervention order you could get a criminal record. This may make it more difficult to get certain kinds of jobs or travel in the future.

What about my gun licence?

An intervention order can ban you from having a gun for five years or more. An order can also cancel any permits you have. The police can search for guns and other weapons and take them from you.

Get legal advice if you have a reason for having a gun. For example, you need to carry one for work.

See 'Where to get help' on page 24.

What if my intervention order is different from my community corrections order?

You must follow your intervention order. If you do not you could be charged with a criminal offence.

Speak to a lawyer immediately if your intervention order is different from your community corrections order. **See** 'Where to get help' on page 24.

What if I'm under 18?

The police or a family member can apply for an intervention order against you in the Children's Court. The magistrate can make an intervention order with conditions that are needed to keep your family member safe.

A magistrate can make an order saying you must leave your home (an exclusion order) but they must think about a number of things first. This includes whether you have somewhere else to live and how you can keep going to school.

It is very important you get legal advice as soon as possible if someone applies for an intervention order against you. **See** 'Where to get help' on page 24. There are special services for people under 18 years old.

ROLE OF THE POLICE

Why are the police involved?

The police must investigate reports of **family violence**. They will look at any risk to your **family member's** safety and act to protect them.

They can do this even if your family member does not want them to.

The police must give you any court forms (such as the **application** and any orders) and explain the **conditions** to you. This is when they tell you what you cannot do.

There will be a date on these forms telling you when you have to go to court. **See** 'What paperwork should I have?' on page 14 for more information about the court forms police can give you.

What can the police do?

The police can:

- arrest you or hold you in **custody**
- make you leave your home
- give you a **family violence safety notice**
- apply for a **family violence intervention order** on behalf of your family member
- take away guns and other weapons
- give you an application and a **summons** to go to court.

What if I am not happy with what the police do?

If you do not understand what the police say, ask them for more information. You can also get legal advice and other help.

If you are angry about the intervention order, abusing the police will not help. This could also lead to criminal charges.

If you are unhappy with how the police acted, you can get help from Victoria Legal Aid or a community legal centre. You should ask the police officer for their name, rank and the station where they work. You can complain to the senior sergeant of that station or use the 'compliments and complaints' section of the Victoria Police website.

See 'Where to get help' on page 24.

THE FAMILY VIOLENCE INTERVENTION ORDER PROCESS

Application Note: This is a general summary. It might be slightly different for you, as each situation is different.

STEP 1:

The person asking for the intervention order completes an application form at the Magistrates' court.

STEP 2:

The court issues a **summons**. They may also issue an **interim order**.

STEP 3:

The police give (serve) you with the documents. If they have a warrant they will arrest you. See 'Before going to court' on page 13.

STEP 4:

First court hearing: the summons will tell you when to go to court. See 'The first hearing' on page 16'.

Option 1: You agree to the order (consent without admissions). Go to **Step 6**.

Option 2: You disagree with the order and come back for a **contested hearing**. Go to **Step 5**.

Option 3: You ask for an **undertaking**, and the **applicant** and court agree. The application is withdrawn.

STEP 5:

The court hears the **evidence** and makes a decision. Go to **Step 6** or **Step 7**.

STEP 6:

An intervention order is made. You are given a copy and must follow the **conditions**. See 'Final intervention order' on page 19. Completion of process.

STEP 7:

The court decides not to make an intervention order. Completion of process.

BEFORE GOING TO COURT

Do I have to go to court?

If you are on bail, yes. You may be arrested and charged if you do not go.

If you get a **summons** or a **family violence safety notice**, no. But it is a good idea to go. **Family violence intervention orders** can be made without you there. If you are not there, you will have no say about the **conditions** in the order.

If you want to put off (adjourn) your case to another day you still have to go to court to ask for this. Tell the court as soon as you can if you have a good reason why you cannot go on your court day. For example, you will be in hospital.

If you want to have a say about the intervention order, you should go to court.

Do I need to see a lawyer?

If there is an order against you, get legal help. Talking to a lawyer can help you sort out what you want to do.

You should speak to a lawyer before going to court if:

- you have children. The order can have conditions about how and when you see or care for them
- you disagree with any of the conditions. For example, one that stops you from living at your home
- you want to contest the order. That is, you want to say the whole thing is untrue
- you think you might be charged with a crime
- you have a reason for having a gun or other weapon. For example, you need one for work.

The court expects you to see a lawyer. The **magistrate** will ask if you have spoken to a lawyer about the **application**. The court hearing may be adjourned (put off) until both you and your **family member** have spoken to a lawyer.

See 'Where to get help' on page 24.

What paperwork should I have?

Police will give you (serve) paperwork to tell you to go to court. What paperwork you have will depend who made the application and what the **applicant** said you did. Police may give you a family violence safety notice, an application and a summons or an **interim order**. The police could also show you a **warrant** and arrest you.

A family violence safety notice

Police may have given you this when they responded to a report of **family violence**. You will have to go to court in the next 14 days. **See** 'Family violence intervention orders' on page 6 for more information.

An application and a summons

An application is the form that has:

- your family member's name
- what the police or your family member say happened
- why your family member needs protection
- the conditions (rules) the police or your family member wants.

Read these conditions carefully. You cannot do any of these things until you go to court.

A summons will tell you the when and where you need to go to court to talk about the application.

An interim order

A magistrate may have made this if your family member needs immediate protection.

This is a temporary intervention order. The interim order will continue until a magistrate makes a final decision about an order. You must follow the interim order until a final order is made.

What is a warrant?

A warrant is a court order to arrest you. A court can make a warrant for your arrest if your family member has been hurt or property has been damaged. If you are arrested and released on bail, you must come to court on the day you are told to.

GOING TO COURT

Because everyone's situation is different, different things can happen at court.

When do I have to go?

The **summons** that comes with the **application** form will tell you the date and time of your first court hearing. You may have to go to court more than once.

If you were given a **family violence safety notice** by police, your first hearing date will be within 14 days.

It is important to get to court on time. Plan to be at court for the whole day. You may have to wait for other cases before your case is heard.

What do I need to take?

Take the court forms the police gave you and any other paperwork about the application. You can bring someone for support.

If you are going to court for the first hearing date, you do not need to bring witnesses.

What happens when I get to court?

When you get to court, go to the counter and tell the **registrar** you are there. The registrar may ask if you agree or disagree with the order, and if you have seen a lawyer.

Tell the registrar if you would like to see a **duty lawyer** or get other help at court.

Do not go too far away. You need to be able to hear your name being called when the **magistrate** is ready for your case.

Can I talk to my family member or their lawyer?

If an **interim order** has been made you should not to talk to your **family member**.

Do not talk to them even if they come over to you. It is better to talk to the registrar, magistrate or your family member's lawyer about what you want.

What happens in the court room?

When your name is called, go into the courtroom. If you do not have a lawyer, stand behind the table at the front of the court, facing the magistrate. The magistrate or clerk will tell you what to do.

Speak clearly and answer all questions you are asked. Try to stay calm. It will help your case.

THE FIRST HEARING

The first hearing is your chance to choose what happens next. You have options.

- Option 1: agree to a **family violence intervention order** being made.
- Option 2: disagree with an intervention order being made.
- Option 3: offer to give an **undertaking** (a promise to the court), in some situations.

You also may be able to change some of the **conditions** on the order. You can ask the **magistrate** or speak to the police. A **duty lawyer** may also be able to help.

If there is a chance that you and the **applicant** can make an agreement the court may give you more time. A lawyer may be able to help with this.

You need to go to court to do any of these things.

It is best to talk to a lawyer about your options. **See** 'Where to get help' on page 24.

Option 1: agree to an order

You can agree to:

- the conditions in the **application**, but not agree with what was said about you. This is called 'consenting without admissions'
- an order being made but ask the magistrate to change some of the conditions. You can do this so you do not risk breaking the order.

In court the magistrate will ask if you consent to the intervention order being made. Be clear about what you want. You could be charged with a crime if you do not follow the conditions.

If you consent without admissions, the magistrate can make an order without deciding whether you did what the police or your **family member** said you did.

Depending on which court you are at, the magistrate may also order you to have counselling. You should ask the **registrar** or the court about counselling.

A family violence intervention order is not a **criminal record**. But if you break your intervention order, you could be charged with a crime. If you follow your order, you will not need to come back to court.

If you agree with the order the magistrate can make a decision quickly.

See 'How does an intervention order affect me?' on page 8.

Option 2: disagree with an order

Tell the magistrate you do not agree with the application. The court will organise a date for a **contested hearing**. You have to come back to court on this date.

This is when the magistrate hears all the **evidence** from both sides, including witnesses. Before the contested hearing you will usually need to come back to court for a directions hearing. This is where the court asks for more information, such as how many witnesses you have.

A magistrate will only set a date for a contested hearing if both you and your family member:

- have spoken to a lawyer
- are ready for the contested hearing.

See 'Contested hearing' on page 18 for more information.

If you want to go to a contested hearing, get legal advice as soon as possible.
See 'Where to get help' on page 24.

Option 3: offer to give an undertaking

An undertaking is a formal written promise to the court and your family member that you will follow the conditions (rules) of the undertaking. Your family member must agree to an undertaking. The court can say no to an undertaking.

If you and your family member agree to an undertaking the application for an intervention order is stopped.

If you break the conditions on the undertaking, your family member can bring the case back to court and ask for an intervention order to be made.

CONTESTED HEARING

Important: If you need to come back for a **contested hearing**, is very likely that any **interim order** or safety notice will apply until then. If you do not follow the **conditions** (rules) of the order it is a crime. The police can charge you.

How do I get ready for a contested hearing?

If you have not spoken to a lawyer yet, you need to now. Ask them what you need to get ready. See 'Where to get help' on page 24.

You need to get ready for court. This can include getting **evidence**, including witnesses, to support your story.

You can find your own lawyer for the contested hearing. The court can also ask Victoria Legal Aid to get a lawyer for you. You will be asked to fill out paperwork to send back to Victoria Legal Aid before they can give you a lawyer. Make sure the court has your current address and phone number.

A court-ordered lawyer will only be able to help you at the contested hearing. They will not be able to organise your witnesses or do any other paperwork before the hearing. You should ask the court what you need to do.

If you refuse a lawyer, you will not be able to ask your witnesses any questions about the case.

Before you go to a contested hearing you may go to a directions hearing. This is when you talk to the court about the **application** and tell the **magistrate** how many witnesses you have. Talk to a lawyer before a direction hearing.

What happens at a contested hearing?

The magistrate will listen to the other side first. This may include the police and your family member. You will get to tell your side of the story afterwards.

Can I ask my family member questions in court myself?

No. Your family member, and any child, becomes a protected witness. You cannot ask a protected witness questions in court during the hearing.

A protected witness may also be able to give evidence by video or in other ways.

If you have a lawyer, they can ask your family member questions in court. This is called cross examination. Your lawyer can explain how this will work.

FINAL INTERVENTION ORDER

When can the magistrate make an order?

The **magistrate** will make a **family violence intervention order** if both you and your **family member** consent (agree) to it. This can happen at the first hearing.

If you or your family member disagrees, the magistrate will put off your case to a contested hearing. At a **contested hearing** the magistrate must listen to **evidence** and decide whether:

- there was **family violence** by you towards your family member and
- the violence is likely to continue.

If the magistrate says that there was not enough evidence, then they will not make an order.

What conditions can the magistrate put in the order?

The magistrate can put any **conditions** in an intervention order which will keep family members safe, including children.

When deciding which conditions to include, the magistrate will consider:

- any children you have with your family member
- if there are any other court orders in place. For example, family law orders
- where you and the other person will live
- if you need to be able to contact each other. For example, to talk about the children
- if there is anything you own at the home, if there is an **exclusion order**.

See 'How does an intervention order affect me?' on page 8.

If you are given a final intervention order, make sure you understand what is in it. Ask the court or your lawyer to explain. Read the paperwork you are given. Be clear about the conditions of your intervention order. This is so you know what you cannot do.

Will I need to come back to court?

If you follow a final order, you may not need to go to court again.

DISAGREEING WITH THE MAGISTRATE'S DECISION

If you or your **family member** do not agree with the **magistrate's** decision about a final order, both of you can appeal to the County Court. See 'Where to get help' on page 24.

You must appeal within 28 days of the decision. Get legal advice first.

You can appeal if you disagree with:

- getting an intervention order
- any of the **conditions** in the order. That is, any of the things you cannot do
- how long the order will go for.

You **cannot** appeal an **interim order** or a **family violence safety notice**.

You must follow the conditions of the order until the County Court makes a decision about your appeal.



BREAKING AN INTERVENTION ORDER

If you do not follow the rules of an intervention order this is called breaking the intervention order. Police may call this a 'breach' or '**contravention**'.

Breaking an intervention order is a crime. The police can arrest and charge you.

This is the same for **interim orders** and **family violence safety notices**.

The police can also charge you if you have committed another offence against your **family member**. For example, assault or property damage.

The police must investigate if you break your order. The police will talk to your family member and any witnesses and interview you.

If the police think your behaviour is serious then they might put you in **custody** until you go to court.

If you are charged, you will need to decide whether to plead guilty or not guilty. You should have a lawyer for the court hearing. Get legal advice well before the hearing date. **See** 'Where to get help' on page 24.

If you are found guilty, you can get a large fine or have go to jail and get a **criminal record**.

ENDING OR CHANGING AN INTERVENTION ORDER

What happens when the order finishes?

The **family violence intervention order** will finish on the date in the order.

If your **family member** still believes that they are not safe, they can ask for the intervention order to go for longer. This is called an extension. They must ask the court before the order finishes. You will be told if this happens.

Can the order be changed or cancelled?

If your situation changes, for example, you and your partner get back together, you must still follow the intervention order.

Only the court can change or cancel an intervention order. Your family member cannot make this decision.

You or your family member can apply to change the order. If you want to change the **conditions** (rules) talk to the **registrar** at the court where you got the order. You need to fill in forms explaining what has changed. Your family member will be told that you are asking for this. You will have to go back to court.

The **magistrate** must ask if any children named in the order still need protection.

The magistrate may not agree to cancel an order if they think that the family member still needs protection or if there are children involved.

What if my family member moves interstate or overseas?

Intervention orders made in Victoria must be followed in every other state and territory in Australia. The conditions of the order stay the same no matter where everyone is living.

Where your family member lives is their decision. However, if you have children and your family member plans to take them interstate or overseas, you should get legal advice. **See** 'Where to get help' on page 24.



WHERE TO GET HELP

Victoria Legal Aid

Legal Help

For free information about the law and how we can help you, visit our website www.legalaid.vic.gov.au or call 1300 792 387 Monday to Friday, 8 am to 6pm, excluding public holidays.

Do you need help calling us?



Translating and Interpreting Service

Tel: 131 450



National Relay Service (free)

TTY users: call 133 677

Speak and Listen users: call 1300 555 727

Internet relay users: <https://internet-relay.nrscall.gov.au/>

SMS relay: 0423 677 767

Local offices

We have offices all over Victoria. Our offices are open Monday to Friday, 8.45 am to 5.15 pm.

See the back cover for office locations.

All offices are accessible to people with a disability.

Other legal services

Federation of Community Legal Centres

Call to find your nearest community legal centre.

Tel: (03) 9652 1500

Website: www.fclc.org.au

Law Institute of Victoria

Referral to a private lawyer.

Tel: (03) 9607 9550

Website: www.liv.asn.au

Victorian Aboriginal Legal Service

Tel: 1800 064 865

Website: www.vals.org.au

Youthlaw

A free, youth-friendly legal service for young people under 25 in Victoria.

Tel: (03) 9113 9500

Website: www.youthlaw.asn.au

Court Services

County Court

For more information on the county court and what it does.

Website: www.countycourt.vic.gov.au

Children's Court

For more information on the Children's Court in Victoria.

Website: www.childrenscourt.vic.gov.au

Magistrates' Court

Find the address and contact details of courts in Victoria, more information about family violence and support services, watch an online mock family violence hearing and take a virtual court tour.

Website: www.mcv.vic.gov.au

Support services

No to Violence (Men's Referral Service)

A free, anonymous and confidential telephone counselling, information and referral service. For men and anyone concerned about their behaviour, or the safety of their family members.

Tel: 1300 766 491

Website: www.ntv.org.au



Salvation Army Crisis Service

Provides support to people experiencing, or at risk of, homelessness.

Tel: 1800 627 727

Women's Information and Referral Exchange

Free information, support and referrals for all Victorian women, nonbinary and gender-diverse people.

Tel: 1300 134 130

Website: www.wire.org.au

Useful Victoria Legal Aid resources

To order publications

We have free booklets about the law in English and other languages. Visit www.legalaid.vic.gov.au to order or download booklets. Call (03) 9269 0234 and ask for Publications to find out more.

Our public law library

Open Monday to Friday, 9 am to 5 pm
570 Bourke Street
Melbourne VIC 3000



Family violence intervention order applications
Fact sheets for affected family members and for respondents



Safe at home
how to get a family violence intervention order. This free booklet is for people experiencing family violence.



You and family law: a short guide
This free booklet explains how ending a relationship affects you, your children and your property.



Watch our community legal education videos.

How to respond to a family violence intervention order

Victoria Legal Aid

For free information about the law and how we can help you, please visit our website www.legalaid.vic.gov.au or call Legal Help on 1300 792 387.

For business queries, call (03) 9269 0234

Offices

Melbourne

Suburban offices

Broadmeadows

Dandenong

Frankston

Ringwood

Sunshine

Regional offices

Bairnsdale

Ballarat

Bendigo

Geelong

Horsham

Mildura

Morwell

Shepparton

Warrnambool



Publication orders

To download or order our publications in English or other languages go to www.legalaid.vic.gov.au

If you need help ordering online please call (03) 9269 0234 and ask for Publications or email cle@vla.vic.gov.au