

## Do I need a lawyer when I go to court?

- ☞ If the police applied for the AVO on your behalf they will have someone to represent you. This person is called a Police Prosecutor.
- ☞ If you made your own application you should speak to a lawyer. Many local courts have lawyers on duty to help with private applications for AVOs.
- ☞ **Contact your closest Women's Domestic Violence Advocacy Service (WDVCAS). This service provides support at court and works closely with lawyers on duty. Contact the court, police, or us for your nearest WDVCAS.**

## What happens once I have an AVO?

- ☞ Keep a copy of your AVO with you and give a copy to your school and/or your work.
- ☞ If the person you have the AVO against breaks the rules in the AVO, tell the police! This is called a **breach and it's a crime**.
- ☞ If things change or get better, you should get legal advice about whether you need to change the AVO to suit your new situation.

**For more information call:**  
**Wirringa Baiya Aboriginal Women's Legal Centre**  
**1800 686 587 (freecall) or (02) 9569 3847**

**Police 000**  
**(triple zero) (24/7)**

**Domestic Violence Line (24/7)**  
**1800 656 463**

**Law Access NSW (Mon-Fri 9am-5pm)**  
**1300 888 784**

**Rape & Domestic Violence Services Australia (24/7)**  
**1800 424 017**

# DOMESTIC VIOLENCE AND AVOs



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# DOMESTIC VIOLENCE AND AVOs

## What is domestic violence?

Domestic violence is when someone close to you hurts you, like your boyfriend, girlfriend, ex-girlfriend, ex-boyfriend, father, mother, sister or brother. The abuse can be:

### Physical

This is when someone:

- 📞 Pushes you.
- 📞 Punches, kicks you.
- 📞 Slaps you, bites you.
- 📞 Pulls your hair.
- 📞 Chokes you.
- 📞 Throws things at you.

### Sexual

This is when someone forces you to do something sexual that you don't want to, like when someone:

- 📞 Tries to kiss or touch you.
- 📞 Forces you to have sex with them.
- 📞 Forces you to touch them.
- 📞 Makes you watch pornography.
- 📞 Tries to make you have sex in a way that makes you feel uncomfortable.

### Emotional

This is when you're afraid that a person might hurt you, like when someone:

- 📞 Calls you names all the time.
- 📞 Threatens to hurt you, your family or pets.
- 📞 Frightens you.
- 📞 Breaks your things.
- 📞 Constantly calls you or sends heaps of text messages or emails.
- 📞 Runs you down on Facebook or other internet sites.

### Social

This is when someone tries to control your social life, like when someone:

- 📞 Doesn't let you go out with your friends.
- 📞 Checks up on you all the time and follows you around.
- 📞 Locks you in the house, takes your keys, car, mobile or wallet.
- 📞 Puts you down in front of your friends.

### Financial

This is when someone controls your money, like when someone:

- 📞 Takes your key card.
- 📞 Spends your money or doesn't let you spend it.

## Have any of these things happened to you?

**If so you need an AVO!**

## Apprehended Violence Orders (AVOs)

### What is an AVO?

If someone is hassling you, hurting you or making you scared you can apply for an Apprehended Violence Order (AVO) to protect yourself and other people you would like protected. An AVO is an order from the court telling someone not to do certain things, like hurt or follow you.

### How do I get an AVO?

- 📞 Tell the **police** so that they can apply for an AVO on your behalf. Some police stations have Domestic Violence Liaison Officers (DVLOs) to talk to, **OR**
- 📞 If you are 16 or older you can see the person called the **chamber registrar** at your nearest local court and make your own application for an AVO.

### When does it start working?

An AVO starts to work when the other person is given a copy of the AVO. This is called **service** and is done by the police.

**Turn over...**