

There's a Domestic Violence Order against me - what happens at court?



FAMILY VIOLENCE LAW HELP

www.familyviolencelaw.gov.au

Domestic Violence Orders are also known as Intervention Orders, Family Violence Orders, Apprehended Domestic Violence Orders or Restraining Orders.



If you have to go to court for a Domestic Violence Order, you can get legal advice about what will happen in court.

You can also talk to a counselling or support service. Visit www.familyviolencelaw.gov.au/get-help to find a local service that can help you.

Going to court can be a slow process and you may need to go to court a few times before it goes to a hearing.



A hearing is when both sides tell the court their story, and the court makes a final decision.

A case will only go to a hearing if the person the order is against disagrees to the order being made.

What will happen on the first day at court may depend on:

- if the case is urgent
- if the person who applied for the order turns up at court
- If the person the order is against:
 - turns up at court
 - has been served with (given) the application
 - agrees to it being made or disagrees
 - needs more time to get legal advice.



What happens at court is a bit different in each State and Territory. You can get legal advice about what to expect.

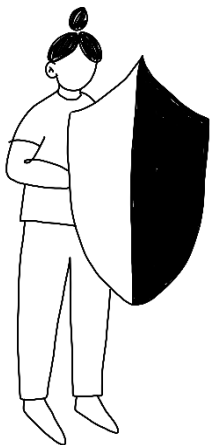


Do I need a lawyer?

If someone applied for an order against you, a lawyer can represent you or you can represent yourself.

Some courts have lawyers who can give you free legal advice on the day about your case. They are sometimes called 'duty lawyers'. They will not take on your case as your lawyer every time you go to court. You can check with the court if they have duty lawyers.

You can get free legal advice from your local [Legal Aid office](#), [Family Advocacy and Support Service](#) or [community legal centre](#). Some private lawyers offer you a free first appointment if you ask



What can I do if I'm worried about my safety at court?

If you're worried about your safety at court, you can talk to your lawyer, support person or the court so they can help you. If you're not sure who to contact, visit www.familyviolencelaw.gov.au/get-help to find your local court support service.



They may be able to help you make safety arrangements. For example, if you don't want to be in the same waiting area as someone else or if you need support from security. If you're going to court to apply for a Domestic Violence Order, and you want your address to be kept confidential, you can talk to the court staff about this.

When you go to court, you can bring a friend or family member to court as a support person if you want. You can talk to your local court support service or [1800 RESPECT](#) to help you plan for your safety.