

women's domestic violence  
court advocacy services

Legal Aid  
NEW SOUTH WALES



Break Your Silence,  
Stop the Violence

Advice about domestic  
and family violence  
and help at court

# Break Your Silence, Stop the Violence

## What is a WDV CAS?

Women's Domestic Violence Court Advocacy Services (WDV CASs) are local, community based organisations in NSW. They assist women and kids at court and can help and support you to obtain an Apprehended Violence Order (AVO). They are funded by Legal Aid NSW.

## How can they help you?

They do not provide legal advice but can help you in many other ways. They can:

- Support you and provide a safe place for you to wait while you're at court
- Give you information about court and AVOs
- If you wish, where possible, have an Aboriginal worker to help you
- Help you talk with the gunjies or your lawyer
- Put you in touch with other support services and legal advice. In a number of courts, Legal Aid NSW provides lawyers who can give you free, independent legal advice.

## What is an Apprehended Violence Order (AVO)?

- It's an order made by the court telling a person to stop hurting or harassing you
- An AVO can also include your kids and other members of your family
- An AVO is not a criminal charge
- Call the police on 000 (000 or 112 from mobiles) if your AVO is breached by the defendant. Tell the gunjies you have an AVO.



## **There are two types of AVO:**

1. An Apprehended Domestic Violence Order (ADVO) is made when the people involved are related or in a relationship. It can include members of your extended family.
2. An Apprehended Personal Violence Order (APVO) is made for all other relationships. For example, neighbourhood disputes or workmates.

## **How do I get an AVO?**

There are two ways you can get an AVO:

1. Gunjies can apply for you. There are specially trained domestic violence gunjies called Domestic Violence Liaison Officers (DVLOs). Make sure you talk with a DVLO.
2. You can apply at a Local Court. This is called a private application. WDVCAS, Local Court staff or your lawyer can help you.

## **Do I need to go to court?**

It's best to go to court. The WDVCAS will support you. It can be more than one visit to court to obtain an AVO.

A magistrate can excuse you from attending court but it is better if you are there on the day. No one knows your matter better than you so make sure the court gets all of your information.

## **Will a WDVCAS help me if I want to keep living with my partner?**

Yes. AVOs can be made to allow you to keep living with your partner.

## **What if I don't want to get an AVO anymore?**

You can ask to withdraw your AVO. The WDVCAS can help you understand how this works. You will need to tell the reasons why you want to withdraw.

## **Changing your AVO**

Your situation may have changed since your AVO was made and you may wish to change the conditions on the order. Your WDVCAS can help you.



# Our Services cover many courts around NSW

Call **1800 WDV CAS**  
**(1800 938 227)**

to find the service closest to you

## More Information and Help

Police ..... 000 (000 or 112 from mobiles)



TTY ..... 106

### Family and Community Services Domestic

**Violence Line** (24 hours, 7 days) ... 1800 656 463



TTY ..... 1800 671 442

**Kids Helpline** ..... 1800 551 800

### Legal Aid NSW Domestic Violence Unit

..... 9219 6300

### Women's Legal Services Domestic Violence Advice Line

Within Sydney ..... 8745 6999

Outside Sydney (Rural Free Call Line) ... 1800 810 784

**LawAccess NSW** ..... 1300 888 529



TTY ..... 1300 889 529

For information about your AVO or to find your nearest WDV CAS.

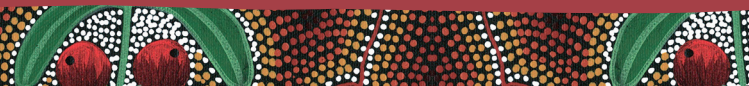
### Safe Relationship Project

(Same Sex, Transgender, Intersex) ..... 9332 1966

..... or 1800 244 481

### Wirringa Baiya Aboriginal Womens' Legal

**Centre** ..... 9569 3847 or 1800 686 587



# Checklist

When is my next court date?

Do I have a copy of my AVO?

Yes  No

Do I have 000 (000 or 112 from mobiles) on speed dial on my phone?

Yes  No

Name of my DVLO and phone number:

WDVCAS phone number:

Local Court phone number:



# Break Your Silence, Stop the Violence

This publication is a general guide to the law. You should not rely on it as legal advice, and we recommend that you talk to a lawyer about your situation.

The information is correct at the time of printing. However it may change. For more information contact LawAccess NSW on **1300 888 529**.

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