

DOMESTIC VIOLENCE INFORMATION SHEET



NSW Police Force

Domestic and Family Violence is a crime.

Domestic and family violence is a significantly under-reported crime. For many victims of domestic and family violence they do not want to end their relationships with their abusive partners, they just want the violence to stop. Other forms of domestic and family violence, while not categorised as criminal offences, can be just as harmful to victims and their families. We strongly encourage that you report domestic and family violence to the NSW Police Force. NSWPF will respond and investigate all reports of domestic and family violence.

Types of domestic violence include

- escalating levels of abuse and violence
- intimidation
- stalking
- physical abuse
- sexual assault
- verbal abuse and/or threats
- psychological abuse
- threats to harm others, and/or causing harm to pets
- threats to damage property or actually damaging property
- financial deprivation and social isolation
- coercive control in order to maintain control over the victim's behavior, or to have them suffer emotional or physical torment and live in fear

Domestic and family violence can happen across all relationship types including

- married and de facto couples
- ex-partners
- boyfriends and girlfriends
- LGBTIQ couples
- long term residents in the same residential facility
- carers
- relatives
- for Aboriginal people, extended family or kin

There are many reasons why victims don't report domestic and family violence including:

- fear of more violence
- feelings of shame
- thinking that they will not be believed
- fear of being left homeless or with no financial security
- being isolated from children, family and friends
- loss of residence visa if on spouse visa

What is an Apprehended Domestic Violence Order?

An ADVO is a court order that aims to protect a person from violence by the police or courts telling the defendant what they must not do.

Who can apply for an AVO?

Any person, over the age of 16, who is or has been the victim of physical assault, threats of physical harm, stalking, intimidation or harassment, and has a reasonable fear that this behaviour will continue can apply for an AVO. Police officers must apply for an ADVO for you if they suspect or believe a domestic violence offence has occurred is imminent or likely to occur.

Domestic Violence Safety Assessment Tool (DVSAT)

The DVSAT tool has been developed to help service providers including the NSWPF to consistently and accurately identify the level of threat to domestic violence victims. When victims report a domestic violence incident to NSW police, they will ask a number of questions to identify the immediate threat level of that victim. Once the threat level is identified it allows service providers the opportunity to offer appropriate, tailored support to victims and prioritises victims at greater risk of harm. For a full list of the risk identification questions visit domesticviolence.nsw.gov.au

Where to go for help?

Emergency call 000

Call your nearest [police station](#)

[Women's Legal Services NSW](#)

[DV Line](#) – Ph: 1800656463 - 24 hrs

[Victim's Services](#)

[Women's DV Court Advocacy Service](#)

[1800RESPECT](#)

[Men's Referral Service](#)

[DV NSW](#)