

Important Information You Should Know

We have serious concerns about your safety

Your safety is very important to us. We want to work with you to reduce the threat to you and your family.

Domestic violence is a crime

It means any behaviour, in an intimate or family relationship, which is violent, threatening, or controlling, and causes you to live in fear. It can include physical, verbal, sexual or emotional abuse.

What is a Safety Action Meeting?

A Safety Action Meeting is **a targeted response to serious cases of domestic violence.**

Safety Action Meetings are held regularly and bring together relevant services providers in the local area – including representatives from the police, community services, housing, health, corrective services, education and the local coordination point.

At the meetings, **services providers develop ways to reduce the threat to you and your family's safety.**

It is important to know that information shared at a Safety Action Meeting is **confidential** and will never be shared with the person who has hurt you.

Why am I being referred to a Safety Action Meeting?

If **you have been identified as at serious threat because of domestic violence**, you may be referred to a Safety Action Meeting. This is so service providers can discuss the threat to you and your family's safety and work together to reduce the threat.

Do I have to attend a Safety Action Meeting?

No.

You and your family are not expected to attend the meeting. It is for workers only.

What will happen at the Safety Action Meeting?

Service providers will discuss your situation and the threat to you and your family's safety in order to develop a Safety Action Plan. The Safety Action Plan is a list of actions that services providers can take to protect you from further harm.

It is important to understand that the Safety Action Plan includes actions for service providers only, not for you.

You can never be made to do anything as a result of a Safety Action Meeting.

Wherever possible, you will be told what happens at the Safety Action Meeting.

What if I don't want to be referred to a Safety Action Meeting?

You may not want your case referred to a Safety Action Meeting. You can let workers know if you do not agree to being referred.

However if your situation is highly dangerous there may be times when we need to make a referral to a Safety Action Meeting for you – without your consent. In this case, we may need to share information to protect your life, health or safety or that of your family.

What if I want to know more?

Contact the Illawarra WDVCS on **02 4229 4604**.

