

WHAT IS DOMESTIC VIOLENCE?

Domestic Violence is the most common form of assault in Australia today.

Domestic Violence may take on many forms:

PHYSICAL ABUSE - includes punching, hitting, kicking, spitting, being thrown around, having objects thrown at you, use of a weapon.

SEXUAL ABUSE - use of pornography or any sexual acts that are unwanted and/or forced upon you without consent.

EMOTIONAL ABUSE - frequent insults and/or put downs which undermine your self-confidence, threats of violence or harming your children, others and/or your pets.

ECONOMIC ABUSE - not allowing you to go out to work, denying you access to money.

SOCIAL ABUSE - not allowing you to see friends or family, wanting to know your movements throughout the day, not allowing you access to your vehicle or phone.

SPIRITUAL ABUSE - stopping you from practicing religious or spiritual beliefs, using your religious or spiritual beliefs to manipulate you or ridiculing your religious or spiritual beliefs.



HELPFUL PHONE NUMBERS

POLICE	000
Hunter Community Legal Centre	4040 9120 1800 650 073
Law Access	1300 888 529
Link2Home	1800 152 152

Helpline 24hr DV	1800 656 463
1800RESPECT	1800 737 732
Family Advocacy Support Service	1800 113 277

Funded by the Women's Domestic Violence Court Advocacy Program, Legal Aid NSW



ADVICE ABOUT DOMESTIC VIOLENCE AND HELP AT COURT

CONTACT US

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EMAIL

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WHO WE ARE

Newcastle Women's Domestic Violence Court Advocacy Services (Newcastle WDV CAS) are a locally based, independent service.

We are a service for women and their children seeking information and help about domestic and family violence and how to get protection from the court.

Our service has specialist workers to help Aboriginal women, women from multicultural backgrounds, older women and women with disabilities.

Before Court

If you have a domestic violence case which is going to court and you want to know what will happen, Newcastle WDV CAS can provide you with information and referrals to other agencies and services for assistance.

At Court

We will make sure you have a safe place to sit at court, give you information to help you understand what is happening and work with you to get an order that is best for your situation. We will also keep you informed about the progress of your case, including future dates when you need to attend court.

After Court

After court, we can refer you to other services that can help you with housing, income support, children's needs, family law and counselling. We can provide you with information about what to do if the abuse continues.

ABOUT COURT ORDERS

What is an AVO?

An AVO is an Apprehended Violence Order.

It is an order to protect victims of domestic violence when they are fearful of violence or threats to their safety. They are sometimes called restraining orders or protection orders.

There are two types of AVOs:

*** Apprehended Domestic Violence Order (ADVO).** This is made where the people involved are related or have had a domestic or intimate relationship. Our service is funded to assist women in ADVO matters.

*** Apprehended Personal Violence Order (APVO).** This is made where the people involved are not related or do not have a domestic or intimate relationship, for example, they are neighbours, or where a person is being stalked or intimidated.

An AVO is not a criminal charge. It is an order for your future protection. An AVO sets out restrictions on the other person's behaviour, so that you can feel safer. If you have children, the order will also protect them.

How do I apply for an AVO?

There are two ways to apply for an AVO. You can make a private application at your Local Court or the police can apply on your behalf. Newcastle WDV CAS can provide information about both private and police applications.

Newcastle WDV CAS will explain what will happen in court. They will work with you and the police to make sure the conditions of your AVO suit your needs.

Information can also be provided to assist and support you if the other person has been charged by the police with an offence.

DO I NEED TO GO TO COURT?

YES. It is preferable for you to go to court so the court has the most up-to-date information about your case and know what you want to do in relation to your situation.

If you are just thinking about what to do and want some information about Apprehended Violence Orders (AVOs) and other services - Newcastle Women's Domestic Violence Court Advocacy Service can help you.

Newcastle WDV CAS workers are available on ADVO list days at the following Local Courts:

**NEWCASTLE
BELMONT
TORONTO**