

Domestic and family violence court support, information and advocacy

Going to court can be a stressful and difficult experience. The Domestic and Family Violence Court Support, Information and Advocacy Program can provide you with support to assist you through this process.

The Domestic and Family Violence Court Support, Information and Advocacy Program operates from an office located on Level One of the Southport Magistrates Court next to Court Room 3.

The office is staffed by the Domestic Violence Prevention Centre Gold Coast Inc. and is open **Monday to Friday from 8.30am until 4pm.** Outside of these hours contact the Court Domestic Violence Registry on the first floor.

DFV Court Support, Information and Advocacy staff can provide you with:

- a safe and secure space to wait;
- information about court procedures;
- assistance making an application to the court for a new Protection Order or to vary or revoke the conditions on an existing Protection Order;
- pre-court visit and orientation;
- safety planning;
- support in the courtroom;
- post court debriefing and Information;
- referral to Domestic Violence Prevention Centre and other agencies; and
- an interpreter can be arranged, if required.

All services offered are FREE OF CHARGE.

IN AN EMERGENCY DIAL: 000



Domestic Violence Prevention Centre Gold Coast Inc.

Contact us on: 07 5532 9000
or 07 5591 4222

info@domesticviolence.com.au

PO Box 1075, Southport
Queensland 4215

www.domesticviolence.com.au

Other useful phone numbers

DVconnect - Womensline
(24 hours, 7 days) 1800 811 811

Women's Legal Service
1800 677 278 or (07) 3392 0670

Legal Aid & Women's Legal Aid Queensland
1300 651 188

Multicultural Families Organisation (MFO)
(07) 5571 0381

Police Prosecutions
(07) 5571 4383

Queensland Law Society
(07) 3842 5842

Southport Magistrates Court
1300 516 700

Coolangatta Magistrates Court
(07) 5569 3040



DVPC is located on Kombumerri Country on the traditional lands of the Kombumerri Saltwater people. We acknowledge and pay respects to the Kombumerri traditional custodians and their Elders, past and present.



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Court Support, Information and Advocacy Program



Produced by the Domestic Violence Prevention
Centre Gold Coast Inc. (GCDVPC Inc.)
Please enquire about our Privacy Policy

Seeking legal protection

No-one ever deserves to be abused. If you are experiencing violence or abuse in your home you have every right to seek protection for yourself and your children.

The law provides several different ways for you to seek legal protection from domestic and family violence.

- **The Domestic and Family Violence Act (1989)**
- **The Queensland Criminal Code (1899)**
- **The Family Law Act (1975)**
- **The Peace and Good Behaviour Act (1982)**

The Domestic Violence Court deals solely with the Domestic and Family Violence Protection Act. If you wish to pursue legal action under any of the other Acts you will need to seek legal advice.

The Domestic and Family Violence Court Support, Information and Advocacy staff **are not able to provide legal advice.** There are telephone numbers on the back of this brochure for specialist agencies that can assist you further.

Domestic and Family Violence Protection Act

The Domestic and Family Violence Protection Act (1989) is designed to provide protection to people who have experienced violence, or a threat of violence, from a person with whom they are, or have been, in a spousal, intimate, family or informal care relationship.

You can apply for a Protection Order if you have experienced any of the following:

- physical abuse;
- verbal and emotional abuse;
- damage to your property;
- have been intimidated or harassed;
- have been subjected to indecent behaviour without consenting; or
- have been threatened with any of the above.

Safety at court

If you have concerns about your safety when coming to court please discuss them with the Domestic and Family Violence Court Support, Information and Advocacy Worker prior to the court date. Arrangements can be made to ensure your safety in and around the courthouse.

How do protection orders work?

A Protection Order is a civil order made by the court to stop the 'respondent' (the person who is abusing you) from being abusive or violent towards you, and any other person you have also named on the order (e.g. children, other family members, friends or associates).

If the respondent continues to abuse, harass, intimidate or threaten you, it must be reported to the police. This is known as a 'Breach of the Protection Order' and is a criminal offence. The consequences of breaching a protection order can range from a fine to imprisonment.

All incidents of abuse must be investigated by the police. There is no limit to the number of reports that can be made. For the matter to be successfully prosecuted in court, the police will require evidence that a Breach of the Protection Order has occurred. It is helpful if you can supply the police with any kind of evidence you may have, such as medical reports, statements from witnesses, photographs, etc.

If your circumstances change and the conditions on your Protection Order no longer suit your situation, you can apply to vary the order by adding or removing certain conditions.