

How to Use this Information Sheet



When you see the word “**we**” it means WWILD Sexual Violence Prevention Association Inc.



You can get help to read this information.

You can ask a worker or someone you trust.

Not bold

We have written some words in **bold blue** writing.

Bold blue

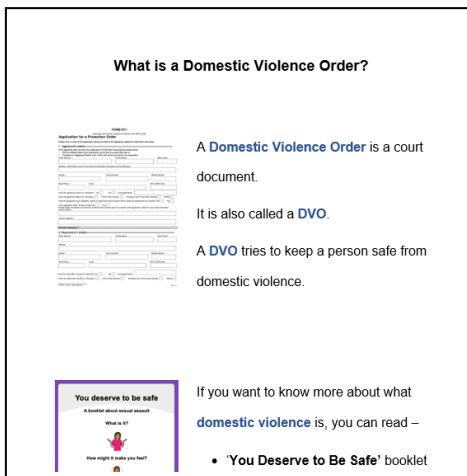
We will explain what these words mean.

Going to Court for a Domestic Violence Order – Aggrieved



This information sheet is about going to court for a **Domestic Violence Order**.

It is also called a **DVO**.



If you want more information about **Domestic Violence Orders**, you can read:

- 'What is a Domestic Violence Order?' information sheet.



You are the **aggrieved**. This is the person who wants protection.



The **respondent** is the person you want protection from.

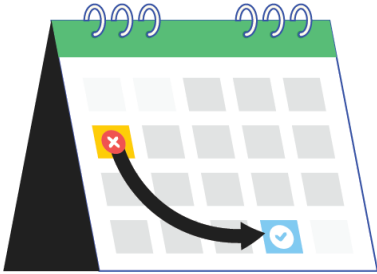
What will Happen at Court?



You will go to the Magistrate Court.

This is the type of court you get **DVOs** from.

The **respondent** will have 3 choices –



1. Adjourn

This means the **respondent** wants to come back to court another day.

They will make the decision when they come back to court.



2. Consent without Admissions

This means the respondent says **yes** to the **DVO**.

They do **not** agree that they did what the **DVO** says.



3. Contest

This means the **respondent** says **no** to the **DVO**.

It means they want to do a **hearing**.

Hearing

A **hearing** is at court.



You and the respondent will need to show **evidence**.

Evidence is used as proof that what you are saying is true.

Temporary DVO

A **Temporary DVO** might be put in place while the **DVO** is going through court.



A **Temporary DVO** is the same as a **DVO** but it only lasts until the next time you go to court.

Your Rights at Court



Rights are rules to make sure everyone gets what is fair and is safe.



You have the **right** to understand what is happening.

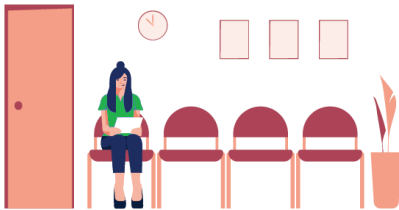
You can ask for things to be said in a different way.

You can ask for more information.



You have the right to feel safe at court.

If you feel scared about seeing the respondent, you can go to the **safe room**.



The **safe room** is a room where the respondent is not allowed to go.



You can ask the court workers where the safe room is.



Domestic violence workers can talk with you on the phone before you go to court.

Domestic violence workers can help make a plan with you to keep you safe.

You can call 1800 RESPECT.

They can help you find a domestic violence service closest to you.

Their number is - **1800 737 732**



You have the **right** to the support you need.

You can bring 1 support person with you to court.

This could be –



- your support worker



- a family member



- a friend

Please tell the court workers if you want to bring a support person into the courtroom with you.



The court workers are there to help.

You can ask them questions.



A duty lawyer can also help at court.

They help for free.

They can –



- speak for you to the judge
- go into the court without you if you want them to

Court tips



Wear smart casual clothing.

Do **not** wear thongs or singlets.



Do **not** wear a hat or sunglasses when you are in the courtroom.



Turn your phone off or put it on silent.

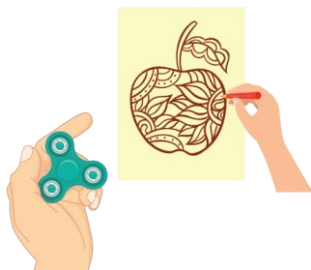


When you talk to the judge, call them
'Your Honour'.

Stand up when you speak to the judge.



You might have to wait for a while
before you go into the courtroom.



You can bring something to keep you
calm while you wait.