

## Domestic and Family Violence Court Assistance Program

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

The Domestic and Family Violence Court Assistance program operates from an office located on Level one of Southport Magistrates Court, next to Court Room three.

The court office is staffed by the Domestic Violence Prevention Centre. The office is open Monday to Friday from 9am until 1pm.

The Court Assistance Staff can provide you with:

- Information about Court procedures.
- Assistance making an Application to the court for a new Protection Order or vary or revoke the conditions on an existing order.
- Pre-Court Visit and Orientation.
- Support in the Courtroom.
- Post Court Debriefing and Information.
- Referral to Domestic Violence Service.
- Referral to other agencies.
- Safety Planning.

**All services offered are FREE OF CHARGE**

## You can ring the Domestic Violence Service 55329 000

- To talk
- To get support
- To seek information
- To arrange to see a counselor
- To join a women's support group
- To ask about brochures / pamphlets
- To arrange speakers for groups

Open Monday, Tuesday,  
Thursday, Friday  
9am—5pm  
Wednesdays 9am—1pm

Website [www.domesticviolence.com.au](http://www.domesticviolence.com.au)  
PO Box 409 Southport QLD 4215

### Other Useful Telephone Numbers

Women's Domestic Violence Line  
**1800 811 811**  
**24 Hours, 7 Days**

Legal Aid Queensland  
**1300 651 188**

Police Prosecutions  
**55 71 4383**

Queensland Law Society  
**38 425 842**

Southport Magistrates Court  
**55 835 900**

Women's Legal Service  
**1800 677 278**

# Women's Domestic & Family Violence Court Assistance Program



Produced By  
Domestic Violence Prevention Centre  
Gold Coast

## 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 Criminal Code**

#### **The Family Law Act**

### **The Peace and Good Behaviour Act**

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 Court Assistance 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 & 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 whom they are, or have been in a spousal, intimate, family or informal care relationship with.

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

- Physical Injuries
- Damage to your property
- Have been intimidated or harassed
- Have been subjected to Indecent behaviour without consenting.
- Or you 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 Court Assistance 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 (eg. 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 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.

