

Checklist

When is my next court date?

Do I have a copy of my AVO?

Yes No

Do I have triple zero (000) on speed dial on my phone? Yes No

Name of my DVLO and contact number:

WDVCAS contact number:

Local Court contact number:

For information about your nearest WDVCAS, legal information and advice:

LawAccess NSW **1300 888 529**

TTY **1300 889 529**

Web..... **www.lawaccess.nsw.gov.au**

Jan 11

MORE INFORMATION AND HELP

LawAccess NSW **1300 888 529**

 **TTY**..... **1300 889 529**

for information about your AVO or to find your nearest WDVCAS

Women's Legal Services Domestic Violence Advice Line

Within Sydney **8745 6999**

Outside Sydney (Rural Free Call Line) **1800 810 784**

 **TTY** **1800 626 267**

Domestic Violence Advice Lines are open 9.30am - 12.30pm and 1.30pm - 4.30pm Monday, Tuesday, Thursday and Friday. Advice lines do not operate on a Wednesday.

Community Services Domestic Violence Line

(24 hours, 7 days) **1800 656 463**

 **TTY** **1800 671 442**

Wirringa Baiya Aboriginal Women's Legal

Centre **9569 3847** or **1800 686 587**

Free and confidential advice for Aboriginal women, children and young people.

Safe Relationship Project (Same Sex, Transgender, Intersex) (02) 9332 1966 or 1800 244 481

 **National Relay Service** **133 677**

Police: **000** (112 from mobiles)

 **TTY:** **106**

If you are hearing or speech impaired, you can communicate with us by calling the NRS.

Legal Aid
NEW SOUTH WALES

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This publication is intended as a general guide to the law. It should not be relied on as legal advice and it is recommended that you talk to a lawyer about your particular situation. At the time of printing, the information shown is correct but may be subject to change (December 2010).

If you need more help, contact LawAccess NSW on 1300 888 529.

DOMESTIC VIOLENCE

So you want the violence to stop

Getting an Apprehended Violence Order



women's domestic violence
court advocacy services

Legal Aid
NEW SOUTH WALES



What is a WDV CAS?

Women's Domestic Violence Court Advocacy Services (WDVCASs) are local, community based organisations in NSW. They assist women and kids at court and can help and support you to obtain an Apprehended Violence Order (AVO). They are funded by Legal Aid NSW.

How can they help you?

They do not provide legal advice but can help you in many other ways. They can:

- Support you and provide a safe place for you to wait while you're at court
- Give you information about court and AVOs
- If you wish, where possible, have an Aboriginal worker to help you
- Help you talk with the gunjies or your lawyer
- Put you in touch with other support services and legal advice. In a number of courts, Legal Aid NSW provides lawyers who can give you free, independent legal advice.

What is an Apprehended Violence Order (AVO)?

- It's an order made by the court telling a person to stop hurting or harassing you.
- An AVO can also include your kids and other members of your family.
- An AVO is not a criminal charge.
- Call the police on triple zero (000) if your AVO is breached by the defendant. Tell the gunjies you have an AVO.

There are two types of AVO:

1. **An Apprehended Domestic Violence Order (ADVO) is made when the people involved are related or in a relationship. It can include members of your extended family.**
2. **An Apprehended Personal Violence Order (APVO) is made for all other relationships. For example, neighbourhood disputes or workmates.**

How do I get an AVO?

There are two ways you can get an AVO:

1. You can apply at a Local Court. This is called a private application. WDV CAS, Local Court staff or your lawyer can help you.
2. Gunjies can apply on your behalf. There are specially trained domestic violence gunjies called Domestic Violence Liaison Officers (DVLOs). Make sure you talk with a DVLO.

Do I need to go to court?

Yes. The WDV CAS will support you. It can be more than one visit to court to obtain an AVO. A magistrate can excuse you from attending court but it is better if you are there on the day. No one knows your matter better than you so make sure the court gets all of your information.

Will a WDV CAS help me if I want to keep living with my partner?

Yes. AVOs can be made to allow you to keep living with your partner.

What if I don't want to get an AVO anymore?

You can ask to withdraw your AVO. The WDV CAS can help you understand how this works. You will need to tell the reasons why you want to withdraw.

Changing your AVO

Your situation may have changed since your AVO was made and you may wish to change the conditions on the order. Your WDV CAS can help you.



**Break your silence,
stop the violence**