

fact sheet 4

Do I need a lawyer when I go to court?

If the police applied for the AVO on your behalf they will have someone to represent you. This person is called a prosecutor. If you made your own application you should speak to a lawyer. Contact your closest Women's Domestic Violence Court Advocacy Service (WDVCAS). The police or court should have this number.

What happens once I have an AVO?

Keep a copy of your AVO with you and give a copy to your school and/or your work.

If the person you have the AVO against breaks the AVO tell the police! This is called a breach and it's a crime.

If things change or get better, you should get legal advice about whether you need to change the AVO to suit your new situation.

For more information
about AVOs call:

Emergency 000 (24 hours)
Police, Fire, Ambulance

Domestic Violence Line (24 hours)
1800 656 463

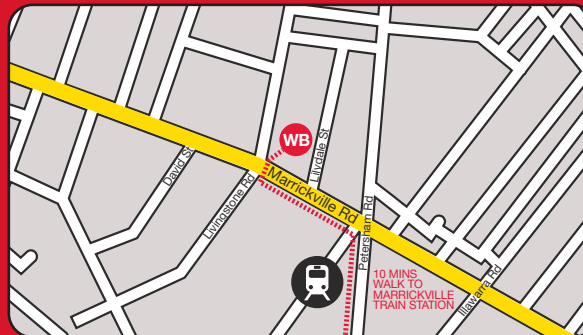
**Wirringa Baiya Aboriginal
Woman's Legal Centre**
1800 686 587

Indigenous Womens Program
1800 639 784

Law Access
1300 888 529

Rape Crisis Centre (24 hours)
1800 424 017

DOMESTIC VIOLENCE AND AVOs



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Wirringa Baiya Aboriginal Women's Legal Centre is funded by the
NSW Department of Justice and Attorney-General.

Factsheets reprinted with funding from the NSW Department of Justice and Attorney-General.

Cover art: Jade Quayle

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DOMESTIC VIOLENCE AND AVOs

What is domestic violence?

Domestic violence is when someone close to you hurts you, like your boyfriend or ex-boyfriend, father, mother or brother. The abuse can be:

Physical

This is when someone:

- ☞ pushes you
- ☞ punches or kicks you
- ☞ slaps you, bites you
- ☞ pulls your hair
- ☞ chokes you
- ☞ throws things at you.

Sexual

This is when someone forces you to do something sexual that you don't want to, like:

- ☞ kisses or touches you
- ☞ forces you to have sex with them
- ☞ forces you to touch them
- ☞ makes you watch pornography.

Emotional

This is when you're afraid that a person might hurt you, like when someone:

- ☞ calls you names all the time
- ☞ threatens to hurt you or your relations
- ☞ frightens you
- ☞ breaking your things
- ☞ constantly calls you or sends heaps of text messages or emails.

Social

This is when someone tries to control your social life, like when someone:

- ☞ doesn't let you go out with your friends
- ☞ checks up on you all the time and follows you around
- ☞ locks you in the house, takes your keys, mobile
- ☞ puts you down in front of your friends.

Financial

This is when somebody close has control over your money like when they take your key card and spend your money or not let you spend it.

Have any of these things happened to you?

If so you may need an AVO!

Apprehended Violence Orders (AVOs)

What is an AVO?

If someone is hassling you, hurting you or making you scared you can apply for an Apprehended Violence Order (AVO) to protect yourself. An AVO is an order from the court telling someone not to do something like hurt you or follow you.

How do I get an AVO?

- ☞ Tell the **police** so that they can apply for an AVO on your behalf. Some police stations have Domestic Violence Liaison Officers (DVLO's) to talk to, **OR**
- ☞ If you are 16 or older you can see the person called the **chamber registrar** at your nearest local court and make your own application for an AVO.

When does it start working?

An AVO starts to work when the other person is given a copy of the AVO. This is called **service** and is done by the police.

Turn over...