

### Remember:

Try to seek legal advice as soon as possible, particularly if there are children and property involved.

You can call Legal Aid Queensland on **1300 65 11 88** for the cost of a local call from anywhere in Queensland. Legal Aid Queensland's staff will try to answer any questions you have and help you to find someone to assist you.



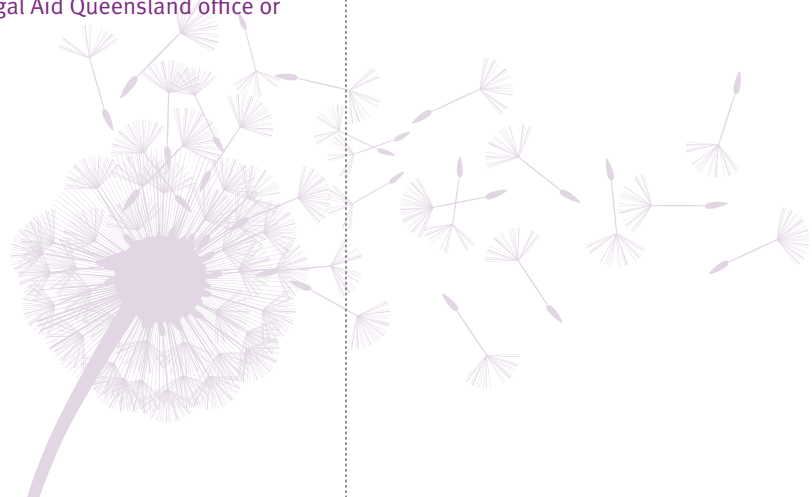
### What is a protection order?

A protection order tells your partner, family member or informal carer to stop committing domestic violence and may order them to stop contacting, approaching, and locating you and any other family members or friends who have been a victim of the domestic violence.

A protection order may last for up to 2 years.

### How do I apply for a protection order?

You can ask your local police to help you complete the application form. You can also visit your local Magistrates Court, Legal Aid Queensland office or a private solicitor.



### I'm in danger and need to leave the family home quickly... is there anywhere I can stay?

If you don't have any family or friends who can help, your local police might be able to help find temporary accommodation for you and your children at a women's refuge. You can also call **1800 811 811** for refuge accommodation.

## Is violence an issue for you?



Queensland  
Government

## What is violence against women?

### Domestic violence is when someone you are in a relationship with:

- Uses words or actions to intimidate or harass you
- Tries to control your actions and stop you seeing your friends and family
- Causes injury to you or harms you in any way
- Damages your property
- Forces you to have sex
- Threatens you or your property.

This applies if you are in a married, de facto, same sex or dating relationship, family or informal care relationship. It also applies if you have left the relationship.

You might also be concerned about your children witnessing the violence or being subjected to the violence.

### Sexual violence is when someone:

- Forces you to have sex
- Sexually assaults you
- Forces you to perform sexual acts that you do not agree with
- Forces you to view pornographic material.

In Australia this behaviour is against the law. It is important to seek help early, as the violent behaviour may escalate.

### Stalking is when someone:

- Against your wishes, repeatedly calls you, sends letters, faxes, e-mails, text messages, or sends unwanted items
- Follows you, spies on you or loiters near your home or place of work
- Leaves offensive material around where you will find it or it will be brought to your attention
- Moves your belongings around, damages your property or harms your pets.

Stalking is behaviour intended to cause you anxiety and fear. Stalking is against the law and it is important to seek help as stalking behaviours may get worse.

### I have experienced domestic violence... what can I do?

- If you need to – get to a safe place, for example, a friend's place, a police station or a women's refuge;
- Ring the **police** on **000** if you fear for your life or safety, or have been sexually assaulted;
- You can call the police and report the incident – domestic violence is a crime. The police will investigate the matter with a view to bringing charges. The police can also help you with getting a '**protection order**';
- Get free confidential legal information or advice from **Legal Aid Queensland** on **1300 65 11 88**;
- Call **dvconnect** on **1800 811 811** for help about accommodation and other practical things such as getting a '**protection order**';
- Call **Women's Infolink** on **1800 177 577** for general information and referral options;
- Go on-line to the **Safe Women Qld database** ([www.safewomen.qld.gov.au](http://www.safewomen.qld.gov.au)) for information about your local area domestic violence services;
- Call the **Statewide Sexual Assault Helpline** on **1800 010 120** for counselling, support and assistance if you have been sexually assaulted;
- **Don't blame yourself** – you are not responsible for the behaviour.

### I have been sexually assaulted... what do I do?

- Get to a safe place;
- Ring the **police** on **000** and report the incident – sexual assault is a crime (try to write down as many details about the incident as you can. Try to preserve physical evidence; that means don't have a shower or brush your teeth before a medical examination has been conducted);
- Contact a support service such as the **Sexual Assault Helpline** on **1800 010 120** for counselling, support and assistance;
- Seek medical care, if required, and discuss evidence gathering to help with prosecuting criminal offences;
- **Don't blame yourself** – you are not responsible for the attack.

### I am being stalked... what do I do?

- If you need to – get to a safe place, for example, a friend's place or a police station;
- Ring the **police** on **000** if you fear for your life or safety;
- Get free confidential legal information or advice from **Legal Aid Queensland** on **1300 65 11 88**;
- **Don't blame yourself** – you are not responsible for the behaviour.

