

Contact details

Please note all 1800 numbers are not free from mobile telephones

Courts

Frankston Magistrates' Court

Fletcher Road, Frankston 3199
Ph (03) 9784 5777
Fax (03) 9784 5757

Melbourne Magistrates' Court

1st Floor, 233 William Street, Melbourne 3000
Ph (03) 9628 7873
Fax (03) 9628 7874

Sunshine Magistrates' Court

10 Foundry Road, Sunshine 3020
Ph (03) 9300 6200
Fax (03) 9300 6269

Werribee Magistrates' Court

Corner Duncans Road & Salisbury Street, Werribee 3030
Ph (03) 9974 9300
Fax (03) 9974 9301

Legal services

Aboriginal Family Violence Prevention & Legal Service Victoria

Level 1, 210 Lonsdale Street, Melbourne 3000
24 hour service that provides legal assistance to men and women.
Ph (03) 9654 3111 or 1800 105 303

Victorian Aboriginal Legal Service (VALS)

Head Office: 6 Alexandra Parade, Fitzroy 3065
24 hour service that provides legal assistance to men and women.
Ph (03) 9419 3888 or 1800 064 865

Victoria Legal Aid

To find your nearest Legal Aid office
Ph (03) 9269 0234 or 1800 677 402

Community Legal Centres

To find your nearest community legal centre
Ph (03) 9602 4949

Women's Legal Service Victoria

Advice and representation for women only.
Intervention order support program.
Ph (03) 9642 0877 or 1800 133 302

Support Services

Victims of Crime Helpline

For help in dealing with the effects of crime.
Ph 1800 819 817

Elizabeth Hoffman House Aboriginal Women's Services Inc.

Referrals through:
Women's Domestic Violence Crisis Service (Vic)
For 24 hour support and information for women and children with or escaping domestic violence.
Ph (03) 9373 0123 or 1800 015 1888

WIRE Women's Information

For information, support and referral across Victoria for the cost of a local call.
Ph 1300 134 130

Court Network

For information and support before, during and after court.
Ph (03) 9603 7433 or 1800 681 61

Victims of Crime Assistance Tribunal (VOCAT)

Level 2, 233 William Street, Melbourne 3000
Ph (03) 9628 7855 or 1800 882 752

Ballarat & District Aboriginal Co-operative

5 Market Street, Ballarat 3353
Service for men, women and families experiencing family violence.
Ph (03) 5331 5344



Accessibility

If you would like to receive this publication in an accessible format, such as large print or audio, please contact the Courts and Programs Development Unit, Department of Justice on (03) 9603 9096 or email cpdu@justice.vic.gov.au. This document is also available in PDF format at www.justice.vic.gov.au



Hearing Impaired (TTY)

National relay telephone service 13 36 77

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Magistrates' Court of Victoria

SPECIALIST FAMILY VIOLENCE SERVICE

The information in this brochure only applies to the Specialist Family Violence Service operating at Frankston, Melbourne, Sunshine and Werribee magistrates' courts.

- The Specialist Family Violence Service has special support and legal services to help you deal with family violence.
- Specialist Family Violence Service staff have special training and knowledge in family violence matters. They are experienced in working with Indigenous service-users and are sensitive to cultural issues.
- You do not have to pay for these services.



More Information

For more information on the Specialist Family Violence Service please see the booklet *Specialist Family Violence Service* available at the Melbourne, Frankston, Sunshine and Werribee Magistrates' Courts.

What does an intervention order mean?

- An intervention order is a court order made by a magistrate.
- You can apply for an intervention order in any magistrates' court and the police can make applications for you.
- An intervention order limits the behaviour of the other person so as to protect you from violence.

What about my immediate safety?

- After listening to the evidence that you have provided to the court, if you need immediate protection, the magistrate may make an Interim (temporary) order before the defendant knows about the application.
- The Interim order will be enforceable as soon as the police have served it on the defendant and will usually remain in force until your final hearing.

Who should I speak to first when I arrive at court?

- If you are applying for an intervention order, you will first need to speak to the family violence registrar.
- You will be asked to fill out a form stating why you need the order, which people it will protect and what conditions you want the order to contain.

Do I need a lawyer?

- It is important to speak to a lawyer, especially if children are involved or there are property issues to sort out.
- It is also a good idea to get a lawyer if the person you are taking the order out against does not agree to the order being made.
- Free legal help is available at the court. To arrange to see a duty lawyer, speak to the registrar, who can arrange this for you, or you may wish to contact one of the legal services listed on the back of this brochure.

Family violence applicant support worker

- You can ask the family violence applicant support worker for advice on how to keep you and your family safe from further family violence or abuse, e.g. you may want to arrange new locks for your home.

- The applicant support worker can help you understand what is happening at court, but they cannot give you legal advice.
- They can give you information about services which can support you in the community.
- What you discuss with them is private - no details will be passed on to your partner or anyone else not legally entitled to access the information.
- To speak with an applicant support worker, you can make an appointment through the registrar or visit the court between 9.00am and 4.30pm, Monday to Friday.

Can I bring my children to court?

- Violence affects everyone in a family, including children. To protect their wellbeing, it is better if you do not bring your children with you when your case is being heard.
- If you do not have anyone to look after your children on the day of your hearing, speak to the applicant support worker about your childcare options, prior to coming to court.

Victims of Crime Assistance Tribunal (VOCAT)

- VOCAT may provide financial assistance with expenses resulting from a criminal act.
- If urgent financial assistance is required you can apply for an Interim award to help with counselling, medical, relocation, security, transport and other expenses.
- You can make an application to VOCAT at your local court or at the Melbourne Magistrates' Court, where it will be dealt with in a special Koori list. The registrar, applicant support worker or duty lawyer can give you more information about how to apply.
- You may wish to contact the Aboriginal Family Violence Prevention and Legal Service who can assist you with your application. Contact details are listed on the back of this brochure.
- You may also wish to contact the Victorian Aboriginal Legal Service (VALS) who can provide you with advice relating to family violence and family law assistance. Contact details are listed on the back of this brochure.