



VICTORIA POLICE

Family Violence

What Police Do



Easy English

Hard words



This book has some hard words.

The first time we write a hard word

- the word is in **blue**
- we will say what the hard word means.

About this book



This book is about

- family violence



- what police do.



This book is for people

- who have been **hurt** by family violence



- who have **used** family violence.

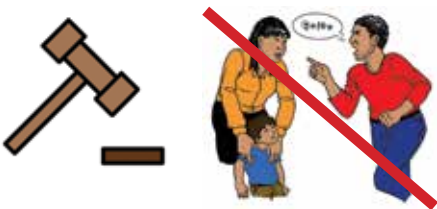
Everyone has the right to be safe



Everyone should

- feel safe
- be safe
- **not** be hurt
- **not** be scared by family violence.

Everyone wants to have safe relationships.



Family violence is against the law.

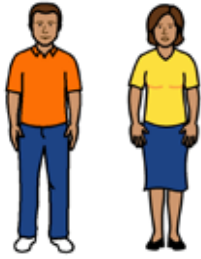


Victoria Police is here

- to help keep everyone safe
- to make sure people follow the law.

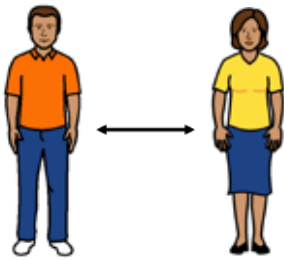


What is family violence?



Family violence is when someone hurts

- their partner



- their ex-partner



- members of their family.



The people hurt by family violence can feel

- afraid to talk about the violence

- afraid to get help



- alone.



In an emergency call 000

An **emergency** is when something bad

- happens now

or

- just happened.

For example, someone



- hurts you badly

- hurts someone you know

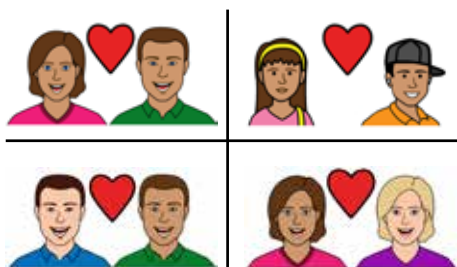


- comes to your house and you do **not** feel safe.



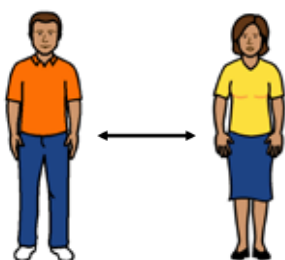
If you need help now call 000.

What is family?



The law says family can be

- a partner, for example
 - boyfriend or girlfriend
 - husband or wife



- an ex-partner

- a parent



- a child

- a brother or sister



- a step family, for example
 - your mum's partner
 - your dad's partner
 - their children.



Family can also be

- a foster family
- other people you are related to, for example
 - your grandparents
 - your uncle or aunty.



- someone who is in your family because of a partner or ex-partner, for example
 - your mother-in-law
 - your father-in-law.



- a carer who is like a family member



- someone you think of as family because of your culture, for example
 - an Elder
 - a godparent.



Family violence can be different things

Family violence can be



- **Physical.** Someone
 - hurts you
 - is rough with you.



- **Sexual.** Someone makes you
 - have sex when you do **not** want to
 - touch private parts when you do **not** want to.



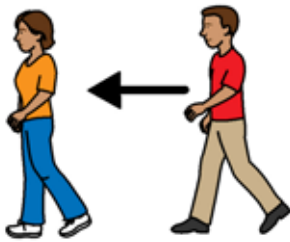
- **Verbal.** Someone says things that make you feel
 - bad
 - afraid.



- **Financial.** Someone
 - spends all your money
 - does **not** let you have your money or things.

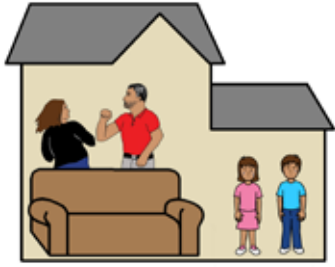


- **Social.** Someone stops you from
 - leaving your home
 - seeing your family and friends.



- **Stalking.** Someone checks where you go and what you do by
 - following you
 - texting you all the time
 - using apps or a computer.





It is also family violence when children

- hear the violence
- see the violence
- know about the violence.



Even if you try to hide family violence they can

- know about it
- be hurt by it.



Family violence is **not** ok.

No one should be hurt or feel afraid.



How to get help

000

In an emergency call 000.



There are services you can call at any time if

- it is **not** an emergency

or

- you do **not** know what to do.



They can help with

- advice
- support
- who else can help you.

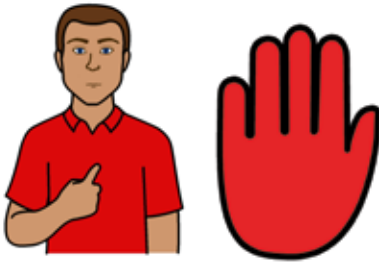


There are services for

- people who are hurt by family violence



- the person who has used violence.



The person who uses family violence can choose to stop.



If you hurt your family ask for help.



You can read about services on page 26 to 30.



How police help

Police will help.



They will protect people hurt by family violence.



Police will ban the person who has used family violence from being violent again.

They will ask services to help.

Police can find out about family violence from

- a 000 call
- friends or family of the hurt person
- neighbours
- services
- the people who have been hurt.



How police help at your home



When police help they will

- check everyone is safe



- speak to each person on their own



- check if anyone needs to go to a doctor or hospital



- ask who lives or stays at the house



- ask what has happened.



The police will ask if anyone

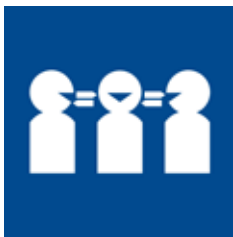
- needs help to
 - hear
 - talk
 - understand



- has a disability or health needs



- is Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander



- needs an **interpreter**.

An interpreter is a person who changes your message from one language to another.

For example

- Vietnamese to English
- Auslan to English.



- needs an **Independent Third Person**.

An Independent Third Person is someone who can help you understand

- what is happening
- police questions.



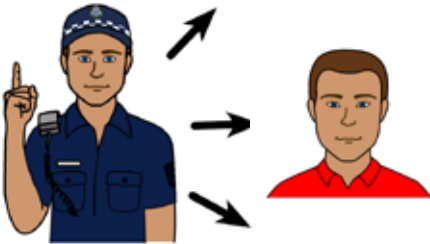
Police ask this so everyone gets the right help.

What police do next



The police will find out

- who has been hurt



- who has hurt others



- if a crime has happened.

If 2 people have hurt each other police will work out

- who has used violence the most

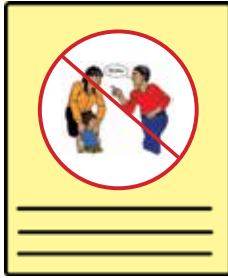
- who has been hurt the most.



The police will work out what to do.

Safety is the most important thing.

Safety first



Police can protect the family from violence by getting a **family violence intervention order**.

A family violence intervention order is a legal order

- made by the court
- to protect people from family violence.



On the order

- the person who **used** violence is called the **respondent**



- the people who were **hurt** are called the **protected people**.



Children can also be on the order.

This means police can protect them.



Family violence intervention order

The order bans all types of family violence.

The respondent must **not** use any more family violence. For example



- **not** hurt the protected person



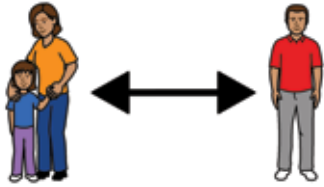
- **not** make threats to the protected person



- **not** say or text bad things



- **not** break things.



The order may tell the respondent to stay away from the protected people.

The respondent may have to stay away from where the protected people go. For example



- their home



- their work



- their school or day care.

This is so everyone is safe.



It may mean the respondent needs to live somewhere else.



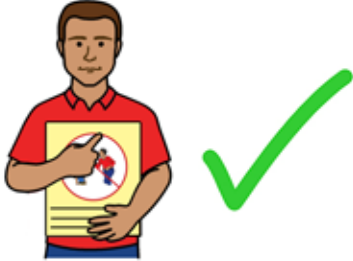
There is a service to help you with housing.
Their phone number is on page 30.

What the respondent must do



The order starts when police or court gives the respondent the order.

This is called being **served**.



The respondent must do what the order says.



Only the court can change the order.



If the respondent does anything the order says they can **not** do it is called a **breach**.

What if the respondent breaches the order?



Any breach means the respondent can

- be arrested
- get a criminal record
- go to jail.



If you need help to understand the order ask



- police
- a legal service
- services on page 26 to 30.



Tell police if the respondent breaks the order.



Court date

There is a court date on the order.

You need to go to court on that day.



Before court it is a good idea to

- get legal advice
- talk about what you need to be safe



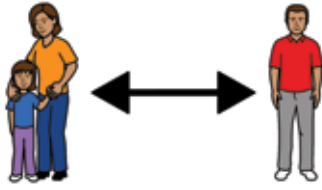
- ask for an interpreter if you need one



- ask if a support person can come to court with you

- plan to be at court all day.

At court



At court the respondent must stay away from protected people.



To help people feel safe some courts have

- different waiting rooms
- guards
- services.



You can call the court to ask about the help you can get.



At court there is a desk where you

- tell the court you are here
- ask for help.



In the court room

When you go into the court room sit behind your lawyer.



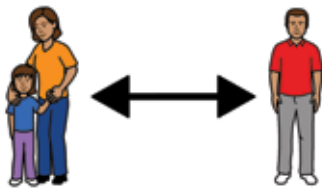
The **magistrate** is like a judge in court who will

- ask questions
- make legal decisions.



The magistrate will decide

- if your family needs an order



- if the respondent must stay away

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
		1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30	31		

- how long the order will last.



After the magistrate has heard your case

- go to the waiting room



- get your new order.



You can ask the court worker what the order means

- for you



- for your family.



Where to get help

Help to communicate



Interpreter

- call 131 450
- go to www.tisnational.gov.au



National Relay Service

- call 1300 555 727
- SMS **relay** to 0423 677 767
- go to www.relayservice.gov.au

In an emergency the relay service can help you call 000

- go to www.relayservice.gov.au/making-a-call/emergency-calls



Office of the Public Advocate



Independent Third Person

- call 1300 309 337
- go to www.publicadvocate.vic.gov.au



Court and legal help

Magistrates Court

- go to www.magistratescourt.vic.gov.au



Victoria Legal Aid

- call 1300 792 387
- go to www.legalaid.vic.gov.au



Women's Legal Service Victoria

- in Melbourne call 03 8622 0600
- in country Victoria call 1800 133 302
- go to www.womenslegal.org.au



Victorian Aboriginal Legal Service

- call 1800 064 865
- go to www.vals.org.au



Aboriginal Family Violence Prevention and Legal Service

- call 1800 105 303
- go to www.fvpls.org



Services



Safe Steps Family Violence Response Service

for women and children who have been hurt by family violence

- call 1800 015 188



1800RESPECT for victims of family violence

- call 1800 727 732
- go to www.1800respect.org.au



Sexual Assault Crisis Line

- call 1800 806 292
- go to www.sacl.com.au



Kids Help Line

- call 1800 551 800
- go to www.kidshelpline.com.au/



Domestic Violence Resource

Centre Victoria

- go to www.dvrcv.org.au

For young people

- go to www.burstingthebubble.com
- go to www.lovegoodbadugly.com

Victims of Crime Help Line

for victims of a crime

- call 1800 819 817
- text 0427 767 891
- go to www.victimsofcrime.vic.gov.au



Men's Referral Service

for men who have used family violence

- call 1300 766 491
- go to www.ntvmrs.org.au



Mensline Australia

- call 1300 789 978
- go to www.mensline.org.au

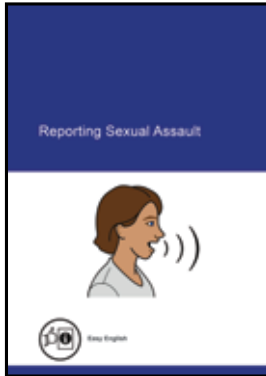


Help with housing

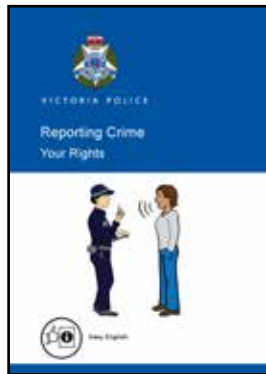
- call 1800 825 955



More information



For more on sexual assault read
Reporting Sexual Assault.



For more on how to report a crime read
Reporting A Crime - Your Rights.



You can read these books here

www.police.vic.gov.au

Victoria Police pay our respect to the traditional owners of lands on which we live and work. We pay our respects to Elders and all Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples who continue to care for their country, culture and people.

Authorised and published by Victoria Police

Victoria Police Centre, 637 Flinders Street, Docklands, VIC, 3008

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