

Family Violence Intervention Orders: A Guide to Staying Safe.



**Aboriginal Family
Violence Prevention
& Legal Service Victoria**
**Standing Firm Against
Family Violence**

You have the right to live in your home without fear of violence or abuse

An intervention order aims to stop a family member from hurting you, scaring you, threatening you, taking your money or anything else that hurts you or your children.

It is not a criminal matter unless the family member does not obey the order. "Relative" is widely defined for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Island people. If you are not sure, get advice from an FVPLS Victoria lawyer about this.

There are two ways of getting a family violence intervention order:

1. Call the Police who can:

- Issue a Safety Notice (for a quick response) or apply to the Court for an Intervention Order.
- Refer you to a family violence support agency for assistance

2. Make your own Application

- A lawyer can help you to make your own application to the court for an Intervention Order.

Conditions

The Court has the discretion to include any condition that's necessary or desirable including:

- that the family member will not hurt you, damage your property or do anything to threaten you.
- that the family member stay away

from you, your home, and/or your place of work or continue to live with you but stop hurting you or doing anything to threaten you.

Protecting Children

- Children can be included on an intervention order (or a safety notice) if they are at risk of harm, have already been harmed by the family member or have seen you being harmed.

At Court

- If you are afraid of seeing the family member at court an FVPLS Victoria paralegal can help you to be in a safe space at the court and stay with you for support.
- Your FVPLS Victoria lawyer can help you negotiate with the police or appear for you in court.

Varying or extending and intervention order

You can apply to extend or change the conditions of the intervention order.

Varying can include changing an order which allows the family member to remain in your family home to an order excluding the family member from your family home. If you decide to extend or vary an order, you need to do so before your order expires.

Staying Safe

- Talk to an FVPLS Victoria lawyer and make sure you are represented at court.
- Talk to a family violence support worker about

making a safety plan for you and your children and accommodation options if you don't feel safe to stay at home.

FVPLS Victoria assists Aboriginal & Torres Strait Islander families to obtain an intervention order when there is family violence involved. This includes non-Aboriginal carers of Aboriginal children. If we are unable to assist you we will find someone else who can.

Support services contact numbers:

Police or Ambulance: **000**

Safe Steps Family Violence Response Centre:

1800 015 188 (24hrs)

FVPLS Victoria: **1800 105 303**

Victorian Aboriginal Legal Service:
1800 064 865

Sexual Assault Crisis Line:
(CASA house) **1800 806 292** (24hrs)

Aboriginal Women's Family Violence Crisis Accommodation & Support

• Elizabeth Morgan House:
03 9482 5744

• Meminar Ngangg Gimba (Mildura): **03 5022 5000**

• Orana Gunyah (Morwell):
03 5120 0600

Men's Referral Service:
1800 065 973

Women's Information and Referral Exchange: **1300 134 130**

Victims of Crime Helpline:
1800 819 817

Lifeline: **131 114**



Servicing Victoria with offices in:
Melbourne
Warrnambool
Bairnsdale
Mildura

1800 105 303

The information in this card is general information only. It is not legal advice. You should contact a lawyer for legal advice.
The information is current at time of publishing in March 2017 but may change without notice.