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PLEASE NOTE:

This kit is intended to provide you with information only. If you have a legal problem, you should seek legal advice from a lawyer.

Legal Aid Queensland believes the information provided is accurate as at April 2003 and does not accept responsibility for any errors or omissions.



WHEN TO USE THIS KIT

USE THIS KIT IF:

- You have experienced domestic violence
- You want to apply for a protection order
- You want to apply to vary or revoke a protection order
- You want information about the procedure and court process involved in obtaining a protection order
- You are responding to a protection order application

You should also obtain legal advice.

DO NOT USE THIS KIT IF:

- The violence has been perpetrated by a person other than those recognised under the *Domestic and Family Violence Protection Act 1989*
- You need information about a breach of a current protection order
- You need orders about parenting arrangements
- You need orders about property or child maintenance

HOW THIS KIT WILL HELP YOU:

The kit sets out general information about:

- The protection order
- The procedure to be followed to obtain a protection order
- The types of orders that can be sought
- The meaning of the legal terms used in the kit
- What will happen in court
- Referral sources



TERMS YOU SHOULD KNOW

Adjournment

When a Magistrate postpones the case to a later date.

Affidavit

A signed written statement by a person involved in the case, telling what they saw or heard. It is sworn on the Bible or affirmed.

Affirm

Swearing what you say is true instead of taking the oath (usually because your religion does not recognise taking the oath or you do not have a religion).

Aggrieved

The person who needs a protection order.

Named Person

A person who is a relative or associate (friend, workmate, refuge worker) of the aggrieved who needs to be covered by the protection order.

Authorised Person

The person asked to apply for a protection order on behalf of the aggrieved.

Breach

When the respondent breaks the protection order.

Consent Order

A protection order made when the respondent agrees to the application.

Contest

When the respondent opposes or disagrees with your application.

Cross-examination

When someone giving evidence in court is questioned about their evidence.

Domestic Violence

Damage, injury, indecent behaviour without consent, intimidation, harassment or other similar behaviour inflicted on you by the respondent.

Ex Parte

A court application made without the respondent being told until after it is over. It is only done when you are in danger of injury or property damage.



Family

Relatives of the respondent/aggrieved by blood or marriage such as grandparents, aunts, uncles, step-parents, half-brothers, mother-in-law, parents or children (if they are over 18 years).

You cannot apply for an order if you are under 18 years and you cannot apply for an order against someone who is under 18 years if they are in a family relationship with you.

Final Order

A protection order made by the Magistrate after hearing your application. The final order remains in force for up to two years, or longer if there are special reasons.

Frivolous, Vexatious or Malicious Application

An application made with ill-will, to annoy or without sufficient grounds.

Hearing

At the hearing the Magistrate will listen to evidence from you and the respondent and any other relevant witnesses. The Magistrate listens to what both parties say, takes into account the law and then makes a decision about whether a protection order should be made.

Hearsay

When you tell the court what someone has said. Magistrates are not usually allowed to consider 'hearsay evidence', but in an application for a protection order the Magistrate is allowed to get information in any reasonable way.

Informal care relationship

This is where one person is dependent upon another for help in their daily living activities because of an illness, disability or impairment. This could include dressing, preparing meals or shopping. This help cannot involve the payment of a fee.

Intimate personal relationship

This is where you are engaged, betrothed or you are in or have been in a serious dating relationship with the respondent.

Legislation

An Act of Parliament that sets out the law governing a certain area. For example for domestic and family violence there is the *Domestic and Family Violence Protection Act 1989*.



Magistrates Court

The court which deals with domestic and family violence matters.

Mention

This is the date your matter goes to court. The Magistrate will want to know on this day what is happening with your protection order application. It is **not** a hearing.

Oath

Swearing on the Bible that you will tell the truth. If you do not want to swear on the Bible you can *affirm* your evidence is true.

Protection Order

A court order to stop domestic and family violence.

Respondent

The person you apply to be protected from.

Serve

To deliver the application and summons or order to the respondent.

Spousal Relationship

Your spouse is either:

- the person of the opposite sex you are married to or have been married to;
- the person of the same or opposite sex you are living with or have been living with in a relationship and the community considers you are a couple;
or
- a person who is the natural parent of your child(ren) even if you have never married or lived together.

Summons

A document from the court telling the respondent to come to court.

Temporary Protection Order

An order that is in force until a final decision is made by the Magistrate.



INTRODUCTION

This information kit outlines the steps you should take to obtain a protection order if you have suffered domestic or family violence. This kit will also help you be more aware of your rights.

You should get legal advice along with reading this kit. You can get legal advice from your local Legal Aid Queensland office, community legal centre or a private solicitor.

If you think you are experiencing domestic or family violence, one of the first things you should do is contact the police.

WHAT IS DOMESTIC AND FAMILY VIOLENCE?

Around 90% of domestic violence reported is by men against women. It has also been reported in same sex relationships, dating relationships, informal care relationships and family relationships.

What behaviour is considered domestic violence?

The type of behaviour that is classified as domestic violence includes when another person:

- Injures or threatens to injure you eg punching, pushing, slapping, pulling your hair or twisting your arms;
- Damages or threatens to damage your property or your pets eg punching holes in the walls or breaking plates;
- Uses words or actions to intimidate or harass you eg saying things to make you feel afraid;
- Harasses you eg calls you repeatedly at home or work without your consent, follows you, stays outside your home or place of work;
- Behaves indecently towards you without your consent eg forced or unwanted sexual contact/offensive behaviour without your consent;
- Gets someone else to injure, intimidate, harass or threaten you or damage your property;
- Repeatedly telephones an ex-boyfriend or ex-girlfriend at home or work without their consent; and/or
- Regularly threatens an aged parent with the withdrawal of uniformal care if the parent does not sign over their fortnightly pension cheque.

If the another person does any of these things you can apply to a Magistrate at a Magistrates Court for a protection order.

For more information contact Legal Aid Queensland on 1300 65 11 88.

“The first thing the abused person should do is contact the police.”



WHO THE LAW PROTECTS

The Law

The *Domestic and Family Violence Protection Act 1989* protects people from domestic violence in spousal, family and informal care relationships.

The person who wants protection is called the **aggrieved**. The person committing domestic violence is called the **respondent**.

Can family and friends be protected?

The law can also protect the relatives and associates (family, friends and workmates) of the aggrieved.

When another person injures, damages the property of, intimidates, harasses or threatens to do any of these things to your relatives, friends or workmates it is called "associated domestic violence". If this is happening to your friends or relatives, under the law they are called **named persons**.

Who the law does not protect

The *Domestic and Family Violence Protection Act 1989* does not protect:

- Children under 18 years from their parents (unless the children are named in the protection order as a "named person")
- Parents from their children if their children are under 18 years
- Neighbours
- Flatmates

IF YOU HAVE AN INTERSTATE OR NEW ZEALAND PROTECTION ORDER

If you have an interstate or New Zealand protection order, you can register it in Queensland. You must complete an *Application for Registration in Queensland of an Interstate Domestic Violence Order* at a Magistrates Court. If you do not have a copy of the interstate order the clerk of the court can get one at no cost to you.

The court will give you and the Commissioner of Police a certificate of registration with a copy of the registered interstate order attached. The respondent will not be given a copy of the registration unless you agree in writing.

“Get legal advice to find out what other behaviour is called domestic violence.”



HOW TO APPLY FOR A PROTECTION ORDER

You can apply for a protection order yourself or get a police officer, solicitor or authorised person (friend, relative, community/welfare worker) to apply for you. You can also get a guardian or administrator to apply or a person who is acting under an enduring power of attorney.

It is important to get legal advice before you apply. Legal Aid Queensland may be able to help you obtain a protection order. Contact Legal Aid Queensland on 1300 65 11 88.

PEOPLE WHO CAN APPLY FOR YOU

A Police Officer

A police officer has a duty to investigate any report of domestic violence and to apply for a protection order if it is needed.

If a police officer thinks you are in danger of personal injury or your property is in danger of substantial damage they can take the other person into custody. If the police officer takes the other person into custody they **must** apply for a protection order for you and the police prosecutor **must** represent you in court.

The respondent can only be kept in custody for up to four hours. If it is not possible to bring the respondent before court while in custody to have the protection order heard and decided, the police officer must have a temporary protection order made or complete an application for a protection order.

Even if the police officer does not take the respondent into custody you can ask them to apply for a protection order for you.

To find out more about what the police must do under the *Domestic and Family Violence Protection Act 1989* contact Legal Aid Queensland on 1300 65 11 88.

Your Solicitor

If you want a solicitor to represent you, contact your local Legal Aid Queensland office, community legal centre or a private solicitor from the Queensland Law Society.

A Person Authorised By You

If you do not want to apply for the protection order yourself, you can get a friend, relative or community/welfare worker to apply for you. You need to give them authorisation.



A Guardian

A guardian or administrator, who is appointed under the *Guardian and Administration Act 2000*, can apply for a protection order on your behalf.

The Adult Guardian

The Adult Guardian can apply for a protection order on behalf of someone else if a person has impaired capacity.

An Attorney

An attorney acting under an enduring power of attorney under the *Power of Attorney Act 1998* can also apply for a protection order on behalf of someone else.

IF YOU DECIDE TO GET SOMEONE ELSE TO APPLY FOR YOU

If you decide to get someone to apply for you, you must give them an authority similar to the one below. The person acting for you is called the **authorised person**. You need to work closely with this person.

If an authorised person is applying for you, they **must** fill out all the sections in the application and especially Question 13 and 14. The authorised person must sign the declaration.

HERE'S WHAT THE AUTHORITY SHOULD LOOK LIKE:

I, Susan Louise Peters, of c/- PO Box 123, Fortitude Valley in the state of Queensland authorise and direct Catherine Ann Friend to bring on my behalf an application for a protection order under the *Domestic and Family Violence Protection Act 1989*, against Michael David Brown of 10 Long Street, Mount Gravatt.

Dated this 20th day of March, 2003.

Susan Louise Peters

Susan L Peters

Catherine Ann Friend

C Friend



PREPARING YOUR OWN APPLICATION

To apply for a protection order, you must fill out a protection order application form.

All Magistrates Courts and Legal Aid Queensland offices have copies of this form. Some court support and domestic violence services also have forms. A sample protection order application is included in this booklet.

You need to include on the form:

- Your full name
- Your address - If you do not want the respondent to know where you live you can insert a different address where correspondence can be sent to you. **Remember: a copy of this application will be given to the respondent. If you do not have an alternative address you can keep your address a secret.**
- Whether you are male or female and your date of birth
- Your relationship to the respondent
- The respondent's full name, address or a place they may be found, whether the respondent is male or female and their date of birth. If the police cannot find the respondent you may have to return to the court several times and your application may be dismissed.
- Whether you are the aggrieved, a police officer, an authorised person, a guardian or administrator or whether you are acting under an enduring power of attorney
- What has happened to make you apply for protection
- Details of weapons the respondent has used or threatened to use
- The names and addresses of family, friends or workmates who the respondent has committed domestic violence against
- Any other orders that are currently in force, like a Family Court order about contact with children
- How you wish to be protected from the respondent. The things you list here are what the Magistrate will look at to decide what orders to make.



If you cannot get legal aid or afford a private solicitor, ask the police prosecutor to represent you in court.

In some courts there is a Court Assistance Program or Domestic Violence Service. These services may help you with information about applying for an order. You can ask at the Magistrates Court before filing your application.

You must sign the declaration on the form in front of a Justice of the Peace or a solicitor. When you sign the form you are indicating that the details are true and accurate. All Magistrates Courts have a Justice of the Peace.

Do not fill in the Summons or Oath of Service attached to the form.

When you have signed the form, take it to the Magistrates Court.

IF YOU NEED AN INTERPRETER

If an interpreter is needed to attend court, advise the court when filing the application or on the first appearance.



WHAT ORDERS CAN BE MADE

Protection Orders

Protection orders automatically say the respondent must be of good behaviour and not commit domestic violence against the aggrieved and named persons. As well, all weapons licences held by the respondent will be cancelled for five years.

You can also ask for protection orders to stop the respondent from:

- Coming to where you live or work, or within a certain distance of where you live or work
- Living with you. **Get legal advice before asking for this sort of order.**
- Trying to locate you by contacting a refuge, your family or friends
- Having contact with you or the named persons. This means the respondent cannot telephone you, write to you or come within a certain distance of you. You can ask the Magistrate to make an exception if you think you will want counselling or want to attend mediation with the respondent in the future.

Orders do not only have to be about restricting the respondent. You may want a condition that allows you to return to the home you share with the respondent to get your personal belongings or that makes the respondent return your property.

In some circumstances it is possible for the court to stop the other party coming back to your place of residence, or remove them from your place of residence even if you both have lived there together. This is known as an ‘ouster’ order.

What to do if you have children

If you have a Family Court contact order or have an application currently before the Family Court, you should tell the Magistrate at the hearing for the protection order about this for the following reasons:

1. A protection order must be consistent with a Family Court order for contact. If it is not then the Family Court order will be the dominant order and must be followed.



2. Generally a Magistrate can only make orders about children in relation to residence, contact and specific issues if both the parents consent to the Magistrate making the orders. If the parents do not consent, then those matters must be transferred to the Family Court. However, Magistrates can make orders about children, without the consent of the parents, in some limited circumstances.

If you apply for a protection order, or a variation of your protection order, the Magistrate may at the same time make or vary the terms of your existing contact order to make it safer for you and the children when contact takes place. The Magistrate can also discharge or suspend your existing contact order if they are satisfied it would be unsafe for you or the children if contact continued.

You should check with a solicitor to find out if these laws apply to you.

Under the *Family Law Act 1975*

The Magistrate has the power to make, revive, vary, discharge or suspend a contact order.

The most common way this happens is if you already have a contact order. The Magistrate can then use the section to **vary** the contact order. For example, if the contact order allows your spouse to come to your residence to collect the children and these visits lead to verbal abuse, threats or any other act of domestic violence then you can apply for a protection order. As well as making a protection order the Magistrate may also vary the contact order to make the collection point away from where you live.

As a general rule the Magistrate **cannot** use the section to **make** a contact order. The Magistrate will not be able to resolve all your family law issues. These issues are best dealt with in the Family Court.

You should get legal advice before using this section.

If you have a protection order and you later apply to the Family Court for a contact order or an order relating to the children, you must tell the court about the protection order.

If there are any differences between a contact order and a protection order the contact order overrides the protection order where they are different.



AFTER LODGING THE APPLICATION

AFTER YOU LODGE THE APPLICATION

When your application for a protection order or for a variation of an existing order is lodged with the court, two things can happen:

- You will be given an urgent order (ex parte), or
- You will be given a date to appear at court in about four weeks.

When you lodge your application, you can ask to go to the court to get an urgent protection order that day or as soon as possible, before the respondent knows you have applied for protection.

This is called an ex parte application. If your ex parte application is successful, the Magistrate will give you a temporary protection order. A temporary protection order only continues until the next time your application goes before court. Temporary protection orders are only granted if you are in danger of personal injury or your property is likely to be damaged.

A temporary protection order suspends the respondent's weapons licences and contains a summons telling the respondent to come to court on a certain date.

If your application is not urgent, the clerk of the court will arrange for a copy of the application and summons to be given to the officer in charge of the police station in the respondent's area so they can carry out their duty to serve (deliver) the documents to the respondent.

You will be told the date of the mention (court appearance) when you lodge the application.

You can ring the police to see if the application has been served on the respondent before you go to court.

There will not be a full hearing the first time you come to court after the respondent has been summoned. It will be a mention where the respondent can indicate if they agree or disagree with the order. If the respondent does not agree, a date will be made for a contested hearing.

If the respondent has not been served with the documents in time for the first mention, the Magistrate will adjourn (put off until a later date) the matter, so the respondent can be served with the documents.

If you think you will be in danger during that time, ask the Magistrate to give you a temporary protection order until the next mention (this time may vary from court to court).

Each time you arrive at court, **ask the police prosecutor to represent you.** You should arrive 15 to 30 minutes early so that you can talk to the police prosecutor about your case.

You can also speak to a court assistance worker who will be present at some courts. This person can go into court with you to support you or you can bring your own support person. Your support person is not permitted to speak for you unless they have made the application on your behalf as an authorised person. If you do not go to court at the required time or have a solicitor represent you, your application will probably be dismissed.

WHAT THE RESPONDENT MIGHT DO

The respondent should come to court for the first appearance and has a number of options when they receive the application and summons.

The respondent can:

- Consent to an order being made (a consent order will only be made if the other party indicates their agreement in person, through a solicitor or in writing). The respondent may indicate to the court that they agree to an order without admitting to the facts. This is called “consenting without admission”.
- Ask for an adjournment of the proceedings in order to obtain legal advice.
- Oppose the orders you are asking for, when the court will allocate a hearing date.
- Not bother to attend court or do anything.

If the respondent **agrees** to the orders you want, an order can be made by consent when your application goes before the Magistrate. The order will usually remain in force for up to two years, or longer if there are special reasons.

If the respondent asks to **adjourn** your application, the Magistrate normally adjourns it for four weeks to allow the respondent time to get legal advice before the next court appearance. Ask the Magistrate to issue a temporary protection order to protect you until the next hearing.



CROSS APPLICATIONS

Cross applications are where both parties make applications for orders against each other. In some cases the respondent will make their own application for a protection order.

Magistrates may dismiss these applications where they are seen to be vexatious or without merit. It is important for the aggrieved to get legal advice when they are faced with a cross application. The police prosecutor will usually represent the person who made the initial application for a protection order.

If the other party **opposes** your application, there will be a contested hearing at a later date. If the matter goes to a hearing you should get legal representation either by the police prosecutor, a private solicitor or a Legal Aid Queensland solicitor. This should be done prior to the hearing.

If the other party **does not come to court** at the required time the Magistrate:

- May adjourn the hearing or
- Make the orders you asked for in your application

If the other party does not appear in court, the Magistrate can only make the orders you asked for if the police show proof that the documents were delivered to the other party. If the Magistrate thinks the orders you want are not appropriate, other orders may be made.

THE CONTESTED HEARING

If you cannot afford a lawyer and are not eligible for legal aid, ask the police prosecutor to represent you as soon as a hearing date is set. In some courts there is a court assistance program which may be able to help you prepare your application and support you in court. Alternatively, a domestic violence service maybe be available to help you in your area.

The hearing will be in a closed court, which means the public are not allowed to watch.

Bring with you any witnesses who saw or heard incidents of domestic violence. Ask your witnesses to write down what they saw or heard as soon as possible after the events. They should bring these notes with them to court.

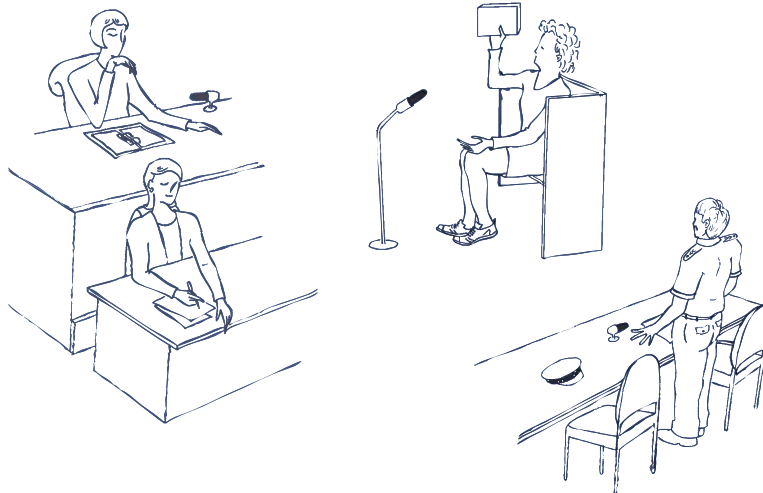
As well as witnesses, bring any other supporting evidence to the final hearing. Photographs of your injuries and medical reports from the doctor who treated you will help the Magistrate decide whether to make the protection order.

If you want to tell the Magistrate what other people said during the incident which led you to apply for a protection order, you are permitted to do so.



The protection order does not result in a criminal record for the respondent. If the respondent breaches the protection order it may result in criminal charges.

THE PROCEDURE FOR THE FINAL HEARING



From the witness box, tell the Magistrate what events happened to make you apply for a protection order. Most of the details should have been included in your application, so only explain any matters the Magistrate does not understand.

After you have given evidence, you will be told to call your witnesses into court. Ask them to tell the Magistrate what they saw or heard.

When you give evidence, the respondent or their lawyer will ask you questions about your evidence. When the respondent gives evidence you or your lawyer will be able to do the same. This is called *cross-examination*. Witnesses will also be cross-examined.

The respondent will present their case in the same way.

After this, the Magistrate will decide whether to give you the orders you have requested. The Magistrate must be sure the respondent did commit domestic violence and is likely to do it again. If the domestic violence was a threat, the Magistrate must be convinced the other party is likely to carry out the threat.

Remember:

If the Magistrate thinks your application is deliberately false, frivolous, vexatious or malicious they may make you pay the respondent's court costs.

MAKING THE ORDER WORK

Once the protection order has been made by the court this is what will happen:

1. The Magistrate must make sure the respondent understands the effect of the protection order and what will happen if the order is breached.

Even if the Magistrate does not explain this to the respondent the order is still effective.

2. The respondent may be charged with breaching the order only if they were present in court when the order was made or if they were served with a copy of the order or a police officer has told them about the existence of the order.
3. If the respondent telephones you or comes within a certain distance of you, they may be breaching the order.

Only the police can deal with the respondent for breaching the order. Write down details of how the respondent breached the order as soon as you can so the information can be used in court.

4. The police must investigate when you report the respondent has breached the order and then may charge them with breaching the order.
5. It would assist the police in taking any action if you keep records of when the domestic violence occurred.

This can include SMS text messages, photographs, letters, telephone messages and diaries.

6. If the respondent is found guilty of breaching the order the court can make them either: do community service; be put on a good behaviour bond; be fined up to \$3,000; or sent to prison for up to 12 months.

The respondent will only go to prison for seriously or repeatedly breaching the order.

7. If you think the police have not done their duty you should speak to the officer-in-charge or the police domestic violence liaison officer for that station or region.



-
8. You should obey the protection order otherwise it may be difficult for the police to prove the respondent has breached the order.
 9. If you want your protection order to apply in other states of Australia, you must get it registered there.

How long the order lasts

When the Magistrate makes a final protection order, they decide how long the order will last. The order will not last longer than two years unless there are special reasons. You may decide to cancel the order within that time. **Get legal advice if you decide to cancel the order.**

How to change the order

You may wish to change the terms of the order. You must fill out an *Application to Revoke or Vary a Domestic Violence Order* from a Magistrates Court.

Remember:

If you and the respondent decide to live together again, get legal advice about having the protection order changed. The respondent may be breaching the order just by being near you.

Remember you can have a protection order and still live with the respondent.

APPEALS

If you disagree with the Magistrate's decision either as the aggrieved or as the respondent, you can appeal it. If you want to appeal you must do so **within 28 days** from the day the Magistrate made the decision.

The procedures for appealing are complex. The appeal is made to the District Court. Get legal advice if you want to appeal. You can get advice from your local Legal Aid Queensland office, community legal centre or a private solicitor.

PUBLICATION OF PROCEEDINGS

Domestic violence proceedings are not usually allowed to be published.

They are only allowed to be published if the respondent is, for example, charged and convicted in the proceedings of assault and the proceedings are related to a previous domestic violence order.

The proceedings can also be published if there is a real community interest because of the extreme nature of the violence.



STRATEGIES FOR SAFETY

WHAT TO DO IF YOU ARE EXPERIENCING DOMESTIC VIOLENCE

Before you leave

If you fear for your safety, you should consider making a safety plan to use in case you need to leave in a hurry. It is important not to let the person you are afraid of see the plan. Sometimes it is useful to develop the safety plan with another worker, such as a police domestic violence liaison officer or a court assistance worker. This helps to expand the range of issues covered, and provides useful links with other support workers. An example of a safety plan follows.

Safety Plan

1. Talk with someone (confidentially) about your decision to stay or whether to leave.
2. Decide who you will call if you feel threatened or in danger. Keep those telephone numbers in a safe and handy place.
3. Decide where you will go if you need a safe place.
4. Identify a person or people who can support you at the times you feel particularly vulnerable.
5. Decide what arrangements you will make to ensure the safety of your children.
6. Depending on the ages of the children, think about how you might help them to prepare for safety in ways that do not frighten them.
7. Save some money for taxi fares or bus fares for emergency transportation to a safe place.
8. Keep an extra key to your house and car.
9. Hide a change of clothing for you and your children.
10. Pack all the medications you need.



11. Know where all your important papers and records are so you can find them in a hurry.
12. Consider keeping some clothing, medications, important papers, keys and some cash at a friend's house.
13. If possible, practise travelling to the location you have chosen as a safe place.
14. Remember telephone safety:
 - (a) 1800 numbers do not show on your telephone account but STD numbers do. You can call Women's Infolink on 1800 177 577 and they will transfer you to other numbers if necessary.
 - (b) The redial number on your telephone can be pressed to see what your last call was.
 - (c) Some telephone handsets display the telephone number of the person who has called on the screen.
 - (d) Some telephone systems can tell you the telephone number of the most recent unanswered caller. If there are people or agencies you do not want your partner to know are contacting you, inform them about this and suggest they contact their telephone company to have their telephone number blocked.
15. Obtain legal advice about separation and protection orders (before you separate, if possible).
16. Consider talking to police even if you do not wish to take out a protection order, so they are aware of your circumstances.

After you leave

The periods during and after separation are often the most dangerous times. It is important to be vigilant about your safety even after you have left.

It is normal to feel totally overwhelmed, emotionally exhausted and numb when you finally get to a safe place. It can be difficult to start the process of picking up the pieces and rebuilding your life and your children's lives again.

At this time it is important to have the support of family, friends or a domestic violence worker.



WHERE TO GO FOR HELP

WHO TO CALL

These agencies can refer you to other people who can help.

Legal Aid Queensland	1300 65 11 88
Indigenous Legal Hotline	1300 65 01 43
Domestic Violence Unit	1300 65 11 88
Women's Legal Aid	1300 65 11 88
Women's Justice Network	1300 65 11 88
Domestic Violence Telephone Service	1800 811 811
Immigrant Women's Support Service	(07) 3846 3490
Brisbane Domestic Violence Advocacy Service	(07) 3217 2544
Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Women's Legal and Advocacy Service (ATSIWLAS) (freecall outside Brisbane)	(07) 3844 2450 1800 442 450
Women's Legal Service (freecall outside Brisbane)	(07) 3392 0670 1800 677 278
Queensland Law Society Inc.	(07) 3842 5888
Women's Infolink	1800 177 577
Disability Awareness Line (freecall outside Brisbane)	(07) 3224 8031 1800 177 120
Queensland Aged and Disability Advocacy Inc (freecall outside Brisbane)	(07) 3637 6000 1800 818 338

Contact Lifeline, Centacare, Kinnections Anglican Family Care, or Relationships Australia for information on counselling and support groups.

