



# Domestic Violence Orders (DVOs)

If a partner, family member, or someone close to you is acting in a violent, threatening or abusive towards you.

You can apply for a domestic violence order ('DVO') to protect yourself and other people, including children.

## **Key terms:**



## **Applicant:**

the person who is applying for a DVO.



#### **Breach:**

break the rules of a DVO.



### **Respondent:**

the person whose behaviour you want to stop or prevent.



#### **Protected Person:**

the person/s who will be protected by the DVO.

## How can a DVO protect me?

- → A DVO is a type of restraining order it aims to prevent bad behaviour.
- → A respondent can get in trouble for breaching the DVO.
- → A DVO can also help **protect** your children and other people in your household.
- → A DVO can include different kinds of orders to stop domestic and family violence and be right for you or your family.

# **Key features:**

- → It is **FREE** to apply for a DVO
- → A DVO can have one (1) or more Protected Person/s.
- → Breaching a DVO is a criminal offence.

# Who can apply for a DVO?

- → You can apply for a DVO.
- → Someone can apply for a DVO on your behalf.
- → **NT police** can also apply for a DVO.
- → A child protection officer can also apply for a DVO.

Call 000 if you are in immediate danger.

## I want a DVO - what do I do next?



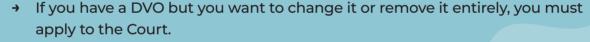
- If you are **NOT** in immediate danger, you, another person, or your lawyer, can apply to the Court (Local Court) for a DVO.
- → To apply for a DVO, you must complete a written application, called an "Application for Domestic Violence Order" at the Court registry.
- → When you apply for a DVO, you must also file an affidavit.
- → Top End Women's Legal Service (TEWLS) can give you legal help, including applying for a DVO.

# I have a DVO, but the Respondent has breached it - what do I do?



- → All DVO breaches should be reported to NT Police.
- → You should seek legal advice to make sure that your DVO is the right order for you.

## I have a DVO, but it is not right for me - can I change it?





- → You should seek legal advice before making an application to change or remove your DVO.
- → Only the Court can change a DVO.
- Even if you and the Respondent agree to change or remove the DVO, you must apply to the Court to make this binding.
- → If your DVO is a Police DVO, the Police must also agree to the change.





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The information provided in this factsheet is for general information only. It is not intended to be legal advice and/or a substitute for legal advice.

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Do you need legal advice or assistance?
You can contact TEWLS for a free appointment

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