

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?



- If you have a DVO but you want to change it or remove it entirely, you must apply to the Court.
- 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.



Top End
Women's
Legal Service



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Do you need legal advice or assistance?

You can contact TEWLS for a free appointment

**Phone: 1800 234 441
or (08) 8982 3000**

Email: admin@tewls.org.au

Website: www.tewls.org.au

Address: 17 Lindsay Street, Darwin