

FACTS ABOUT: DOMESTIC VIOLENCE



Northern Territory
Legal Aid Commission

This fact-sheet has information about what domestic and family violence is, the types of domestic violence, mandatory reporting and help available for victims in the Northern Territory.

What is Domestic Violence?

Domestic violence is where one person in a domestic relationship does things to hurt or control the other person in the relationship.

Domestic violence isn't just between a husband or wife, it can be between people who you live or have lived with, your partner or ex-partner, between relatives and people you are dating or have dated in the past.

Types of Domestic Violence

Domestic violence can include:

- Hurting or threatening to hurt someone
- Calling someone bad names
- Controlling their money
- Stopping the person seeing their friends or going to work
- Calling or texting a person after they have asked you to stop
- Following someone or watching someone to make them feel scared
- Humbugging someone
- Jealousing someone
- Damaging property including hurting pets.

If you are in danger

In any emergency, call the police as soon as possible on 000. The police should help to protect people and keep them safe.

People affected by domestic violence can contact police for assistance on 131 444.

Mandatory Reporting

Northern Territory mandatory reporting laws say that everyone is responsible for reporting domestic and family violence to the police.

This includes:

- a. if someone is seriously hurt or
- b. if someone is in danger of being hurt.

Report violence or danger as soon as possible and when it is safe for you and the survivors of violence.

You can report domestic violence by contacting police on 131 444.

Domestic Violence Orders

Domestic Violence Orders (DVOs) can be made by the police or the Court to protect people experiencing domestic and family violence. These orders make rules to prevent further violence by stopping the person doing certain things.

There are many different types of rules that can be in a DVO. For example:

- a. No contact between the people,
- b. Making someone move out of a house,
- c. Stopping someone damaging property,
- d. Not exposing children to domestic violence and many more.

When police make a DVO, you should get legal advice as soon as possible, before court. The court will try to make sure the right type of DVO is in place.

Criminal Consequences

There are criminal consequences of DVOs:

1. To punish people who commit some types of domestic violence like physical.
2. For breaking a DVO. If someone is guilty of breaking a DVO twice and harming the other person, there is a mandatory sentence of a minimum of 7 days.

Legal Advice and Support Services

There are free, support services available in the NT for people who experience domestic violence.

There is legal advice and help at court from the following services:

Darwin and Top End

Domestic Violence Legal Service

(08) 8999 7977

NT Legal Aid Commission

1800 019 343

Top End Women's Legal Service

(08) 8982 3000

North Australian Aboriginal Justice Agency

Darwin - 1800 898 251

Katherine - 1800 897 728

North Australian Aboriginal Family Legal Service

Darwin - (08) 8923 8200

Katherine - (08) 8972 3200

Katherine Women's Legal Service

(08) 8972 1712

Barkly and Central Australia

Central Australian Aboriginal Legal Aid Service

1800 636 079

Central Australian Aboriginal Family Legal Service

Alice Springs - 1800 088 884

Tennant Creek - 1800 068 830

Central Australia Women's Legal Services

1800 684 055



Contacts

For more information free-call the NT Legal Aid Helpline on:

1800 019 343



If you need an interpreter please call the Translating and Interpreting Service (TIS) on:

13 14 50



Visit a Legal Aid office:

Darwin 9-11 Cavenagh Street

Palmerston Shop 5, Goyder Centre

Katherine 20 Second Street

Alice Springs 77 Hartley Street

Tennant Creek Shop 3, 163 Patterson Street

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