

GETTING HELP & REPORTING DOMESTIC AND FAMILY VIOLENCE IN THE NORTHERN TERRITORY



If you are experiencing domestic or family violence, or you are worried about someone else, support is available. **You do not have to wait until things become an emergency before asking for help.**

1 If it is urgent or someone is unsafe

Call 000 (Triple Zero) immediately if:

- Someone is in danger
- Violence is happening now
- Someone has been threatened
- You are worried someone may be seriously harmed

2 If you need advice or support

You can contact a domestic and family violence support service even if:

- You are unsure whether what is happening is abuse
- You are not ready to report to police
- You don't know what you want to do next
- You are worried about someone else and need advice

A support service can help with:

- Understanding what is happening
- Safety planning
- Counselling and emotional support
- Housing and practical needs
- Understanding your options

3 Reporting domestic and family violence to police

In the NT, anyone who believes a person has experienced domestic or family violence, or is at risk of harm, is legally required to report it to NT Police as soon as practicable. You do not need to investigate or prove that violence has occurred before making a report.

If it is not an emergency, you can:

- Call the Police Assistance Line: 131 444
- Attend any police station
- Speak with a police officer

You can also provide information anonymously:

- Crime Stoppers: 1800 333 000

4 What happens when you report

Once a report is made, the Northern Territory Police are required to act:

- Take your concerns seriously
- Speak with you about what has happened
- Take a statement from you and record what you say
- Check immediate safety concerns for you and others affected
- Collect available evidence such as photos, messages or witness information
- Record the incident in their system
- Assess risk and discuss next steps

Depending on the situation, police may:

- Investigate possible offences
- Lay criminal charges
- Apply for protection through a Domestic Violence Order
- Connect you with support services

5 Domestic Violence Orders (DVOs)

In the Northern Territory, protection orders for family violence are called Domestic Violence Orders (DVOs).

A DVO is designed to improve safety by placing conditions on the person causing harm.

Conditions may include:

- Not contacting you or someone else
- Staying away from certain places
- Not threatening, intimidating or stalking
- Being required to leave the home in some circumstances

Police may apply for a DVO on your behalf, or you can apply through the Local Court. For legal advice about a DVO, Legal Aid NT's Legal Service can help. A free duty lawyer is available at the Darwin Local Court on Tuesdays and Fridays for domestic and family violence matters.

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Specialist domestic and family violence support

After a domestic violence report, you may be connected with specialist support services.

The Northern Territory has specialist domestic and family violence services across different regions.

Depending on where you live, services may include crisis support, women's shelters, Aboriginal community-controlled services and family violence support programs.

A specialist domestic and family violence worker may help you:

- Talk about your safety and support options
- Help create a safety plan
- Connect you with local services
- Access housing, counselling or support

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Crime Victims Services Unit NT

The Crime Victims Services Unit provides support for people affected by crime, including domestic and family violence.

Support may include:

Counselling

- Emotional support & counselling options

Financial assistance

Depending on your circumstances, support may be available for costs connected to violence, such as:

- Medical or counselling needs
- Safety needs
- Practical recovery expenses

Support navigating the process

- Help understanding options
- Assistance with applications
- Referrals to other services

You may be able to access support even if:

- The person was not charged
- The matter has not gone to court

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After reporting

Ask for the **police report/reference number** - this is important for follow-up.

- If you did not receive it, you can contact your local police station and request it

Police may:

- Follow up within days
- Keep contact during court processes
- Connect you with support services

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If you're not ready to report

You can:

- Contact specialist support services for advice
- Contact 1800RESPECT for confidential counselling and support
- Seek information about applying for a Domestic Violence Order yourself

You can ask questions and understand your options before deciding what steps to take.

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Important things to know

- Domestic and family violence is taken seriously
- You can ask for a support person or interpreter
- You can seek support even if you are unsure about police involvement
- Getting support does not mean you have to make decisions before you are ready
- Don't let concerns about your visa stop you from seeking help. A specialist service will explain your options.

You do not have to wait for police to contact you. You can reach out to support services yourself at any time.

NT Contacts

Emergency: 000

Crime Stoppers:
1800 333 000

Police Assistance:
131 444

NT Legal Aid:

1800 019 343

legallaid.nt.gov.au

Integrated family violence response and support system

Crime Victims Services Unit NT:
1800 460 363

Dawn House

(Darwin):

08 8945 1388

Darwin Aboriginal & Islander Women's Shelter (DAIWS):

08 8945 2284

Catherine Booth

House (Darwin):

08 8981 5928

Central Australian

Women's Legal Service (CAWLS):
1800 684 055

1800RESPECT:

1800 737 732

1800respect.org.au

Kids Helpline:

1800 55 1800

24/7 support for young people aged 5-25