

# GETTING HELP & REPORTING DOMESTIC AND FAMILY VIOLENCE IN WESTERN AUSTRALIA



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

**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 ask if a Domestic Violence Liaison Officer is available)

**You can also provide information anonymously:**

- Crime Stoppers: 1800 333 000

## 4 What happens when you report

**Once a report is made, WA 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 Police Order or Family Violence Restraining Order
- Connect you with support services

## 5 Family Violence Restraining Orders (FVROs)

In Western Australia, protection orders for family violence are called Family Violence Restraining Orders (FVROs).

An FVRO 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 issue a Police Order in urgent circumstances, or you can apply for a FVRO through the Magistrates Court. Free legal advice is available through Legal Aid WA.

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## Specialist domestic and family violence support

After a domestic violence report, you may be connected with specialist support services. In Western Australia, specialist services include the Women's Domestic Violence Helpline and local family and domestic violence services.

A specialist domestic and family violence worker may help you:

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

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## Victim Support Services WA

Victim support services provide assistance for people affected by crime, including family and domestic 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 FVRO through the Magistrates Court or Legal Aid WA

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.

### WA Contacts

Emergency: 000

Crime Stoppers:  
1800 333 000

Police Assistance:  
131 444

Women's Domestic  
Violence Helpline WA:  
1800 007 339

*24/7 crisis support, safety planning and  
refuge pathways*

Men's Domestic Violence  
Helpline WA:  
1800 000 599

Legal Aid WA:  
1300 650 579  
[legalaid.wa.gov.au](http://legalaid.wa.gov.au)

*Legal information and  
advice, including FVRO  
information*

Victim Support  
Service WA:  
1800 818 988

1800RESPECT:  
1800 737 732  
[1800respect.org.au](http://1800respect.org.au)

Kids Helpline:  
1800 55 1800

*24/7 support for young  
people aged 5-25*