

IS DOMESTIC AND FAMILY VIOLENCE AGAINST THE LAW ?

Yes, it is a Crime. Your current or previous partner's violent or abusive behaviour is not your responsibility or fault. No one has the right to abuse you physically, sexually, emotionally, financially or socially. You and your children have the right to be safe.



STOP DOMESTIC VIOLENCE

SAFETY AT COURT

If you have concerns about your safety when attending court please discuss them with the court assistance worker prior to the court date. Arrangements can be made to ensure your safety in and around the courthouse

All counselling is available by telephone or by personal appointments including our outreach areas of Proserpine, Bowen, Hamilton Island and Collinsville.

FIND US AT

Cannonvale

Shop 1 Cannonvale Square
157-159 Shute Harbour Road, Cannonvale

Bowen

20 Williams Street, Bowen

Postal Address

PO Box 65, Cannonvale, QLD 4802

Phone 07 4946 2999

WHERE TO GET HELP

COUNSELLING & SUPPORT SERVICES:

Whitsunday Counselling and Support

4946 2999

EMERGENCY AND CRISIS:

Police 000	Mensline 1300 789 978	Lifeline 131 114
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DV Connect

(Women's Crisis Line 24 hour free call)

1800 811 811

Parentline (8am - 10pm) 1300 301 300	Kids Helpline 1800 551 800	Sexual Assault helpline 1800 010 120
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LEGAL ASSISTANCE:

Legal Aid QLD
1300 651 188

**NQ Women's Legal
Service**
4772 5400

**QIFVLS (QLD
Indigenous family
violence legal service)**
4724 3666

**Mackay Regional
Community Legal
Centre**
4953 1211

COURTS:

Proserpine
4964 6000

Bowen
4761 3701

POLICE:

Proserpine
4945 9666

Cannonvale
4948 8888

Bowen
4786 1333



COURT SUPPORT

If you are appearing in court to protect yourself or your children from domestic violence, you don't have to do it alone



ihca
supporting excellence
CERTIFICATION

Human Services
Quality Standards
QUALITY CERTIFIED
ORGANISATION

HOW CAN THE SERVICE HELP ME AND MY CHILDREN ?

Whitsunday Counselling and Support's Domestic and Family Violence Court Support Service (WDFCS) offers **free and confidential** support to assist you through the often stressful and daunting court process.

The Court Support staff can provide you with:

A safe and secure room

Information about Court procedures.

Assistance making an Application to the Court for a New Protection Order or to Vary or Revoke the conditions on an existing Court Order.

Pre – Court Visit and Orientation

Safety Planning

Support in the Court Room

Post Court Debriefing and Information

Access to an interpreter can be arranged if required

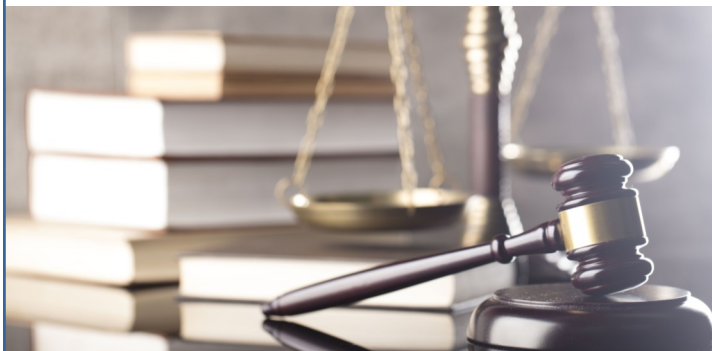
Referral to other relevant services ie. Counselling for you and your children, Crisis accommodation, Centrelink and others

Referral to Legal Advice and Information



DOMESTIC & FAMILY VIOLENCE PROTECTION ACT

The Domestic and Family Violence Protection Act (2012) is designed to provide protection to people who have experienced violence, or a threat of violence from a person whom they are, or have been in a spousal, intimate, family or informal care relationship with.



You can apply for a Protection Order if you have experienced any of the following:

Physical Abuse

Verbal or Emotional Abuse

Damage to your property

Have been intimidated or harassed

Have been subjected to Indecent behaviour without consent

Or have you been threatened with any of the above

Children, friends, relatives and work colleagues who have been threatened, abused or harassed and who are in need of protection, can be included in the Domestic Violence Protection Order application.

Whitsunday Counselling and Support Inc. acknowledges funding support from:

Department of Communities, Child Safety and Disabilities (Qld)

Department of Housing and Public Works (Qld)

Department of Social Services (Commonwealth)

HOW DO PROTECTION ORDERS WORK?

A Protection Order is a civil order made by the court to stop the 'Respondent' (the person who is abusing you) from being abusive or violent towards you, and any other person you have named on the order eg: children, other family members, friends and associates.

If the Respondent continues to abuse, harass intimidate or threaten you it must be reported to the police. This is known as a 'Breach of the Protection Order' and is a Criminal Offence. The consequences of Breaching a Protection Order can range from a Fine to Imprisonment.

All incidents of abuse must be investigated by the Police. There is no limit to the number of reports that can be made. For the matter to be successfully prosecuted in court, the Police will require evidence that a Breach of the Protection Order has occurred. It is helpful if you can supply the Police with any kind of evidence you may have such as medical reports, statements from witnesses, photographs, etc.

If your circumstances change and the conditions on your Protection Order no longer suit your situation - you can apply to vary the order by adding or removing certain conditions.

