

FAMILY VIOLENCE

Family violence is unacceptable in any form and can include behaviour that is

- Physically or sexually abusive
- Emotionally or psychologically abusive
- Economically abusive
- Threatening or coercive
- Controlling or dominating and causes a person to fear for their safety or the safety of a family member
- Intentionally damaging property or threatening to do so
- Unlawfully depriving a family member(s) of their liberty or threatening to do so
- Causing or threatening to cause the death or injury to an animal, even if the animal doesn't belong to the family member, so as to control, dominate or coerce the family members
- Causing a child to hear, witness or be exposed to the effects of violent, abusive or threatening behaviour.

For Support

<https://www.legalaid.tas.gov.au/referral-list/categories/family-violence>

WHAT YOU CAN DO

- Call Triple Zero (000) if you need immediate police attendance
- You can go to your local police station and report the violence. You may not know whether the family violence you are concerned about is a criminal offence or not, but that is the responsibility of the police to determine. Police can take criminal action if an offence has been committed
- You should tell any police member you speak to about your fears for your own or others safety, and if there are any current circumstances that may make the perpetrator's behaviour more violent such as family separation or child access issues. Your welfare, that of any children, and the safety of the community is the first priority
- You can apply for an intervention order by going to a Magistrates' Court. An Intervention Order tells your partner or family member that they must not use violence against you. The order can also include your children if they need protection too. An Intervention Order can stop your partner or family member from having

contact with you, or it could state that you can still have contact with each other, but they cannot be violent towards you. You can ask the Court to include certain conditions on the order that suit your particular needs for protection (for example; stopping your partner or family member from visiting a place where you regularly go, such as your workplace or your child's school)

- Your partner or family member will not get a criminal record if they have an Intervention Order made against them. If they disobey the rules of the order (e.g. contact you or are violent towards you), they can be charged with a breach of the order, which is a crime
- You can contact one of the support services listed on the following page if you require any advice.

WHAT TO EXPECT FROM POLICE

- Police have three main functions when responding to family violence:
- Provide safety and support to those involved
- Identify and investigate incidents of family violence and prosecute persons accused of criminal

offences arising from family violence

- Assist in the prevention and deterrence of family violence in the community by responding to family violence appropriately
- Police will respond to and take action on any family violence incident reported to them, regardless of who made the report and how it was made
- There may be sufficient grounds to make an arrest at the scene or on receiving the report, or this may occur after an investigation and interview
- Police can issue a Family Violence Order wherever the safety, welfare or property of a family member appears to be endangered by another family member.

Police may refer all persons involved in family violence to appropriate agencies as part of the referral process. The referral process is in addition to any other action taken and does not replace pursuing criminal charges or the seeking of civil protection under the Family Violence Act, 2004.