

What is an AVO?

An AVO is an Apprehended Violence Order, made to protect victims of violence against future violence or threats.

There are two types of AVOs:

- **Apprehended Domestic Violence Order (ADVO).** This is made when the people involved are related or have had a domestic or intimate relationship.
- **Apprehended Personal Violence Order (APVO).** This is made when the people involved are not related or do not have a domestic or intimate relationship (for example, the people involved are neighbours, or where a person is being stalked or intimidated by someone).

Applying for an AVO

There are two ways you can apply for an AVO.

1. You can call police or go to your local police station.
2. You can apply yourself by making an appointment to see the Chamber Registrar at your local court.

Whether police apply for an AVO on your behalf, or you make an application through the Chamber Registrar, you will need to attend court.

Sydney Women's Domestic Violence Court Advocacy Service attends court on the following days

- **Downing Centre Court** – Monday to Friday (Wednesday is AVO list day)
Level 4, next to the Legal Aid window
- **Newtown Court** – Monday (AVO list day)
- **Balmain Court** – Wednesday (AVO list day)
- **Waverley Court** – Thursday (AVO list day)

Contact details

- Police 000
- Sydney Women's Domestic Violence Court Advocacy Service 9287 7505
- Legal Aid 9219 5000
- LawAccess 1300 888 529
- Domestic Violence Legal Service 8745 6999 or Rural Free Call 1800 810 784
- Department of Community Services 24 hour Domestic Violence Line 1800 656 463
- Translating and Interpreting Service (TIS) 131 450
- Redfern Legal Centre 9698 7277
- Victims Services 1800 633 063

Do you need help going to Court about Domestic Violence?



Sydney Women's Domestic Violence Court Advocacy Service can help.



This service is provided by Redfern Legal Centre and funded by Legal Aid New South Wales.



Balmain, Downing Centre,
Newtown and Waverley Courts.



Before Court

If you are considering applying for a domestic violence order (ADVO), or you have a domestic violence matter which is going to Balmain, Downing Centre, Newtown or Waverley courts, you can contact Sydney WDVCS. The service can provide you with information, advice and referrals about domestic violence and/or about your ADVO matter.

At Court

Ask for directions to the safe room where Sydney WDVCS can provide information to help you understand what is happening at court, and work with you to get an ADVO that best suits your situation. The service can assist you to obtain legal advice about your ADVO and, in certain circumstances, provide you with legal representation. (See Domestic Violence Practitioner Scheme below.)

After Court

Sydney WDVCS can refer you to other services that can help you with safe housing, income support, children's needs, family law and counselling. Sydney WDVCS can also provide you with information about what to do if the abuse continues.

Specialist Assistance

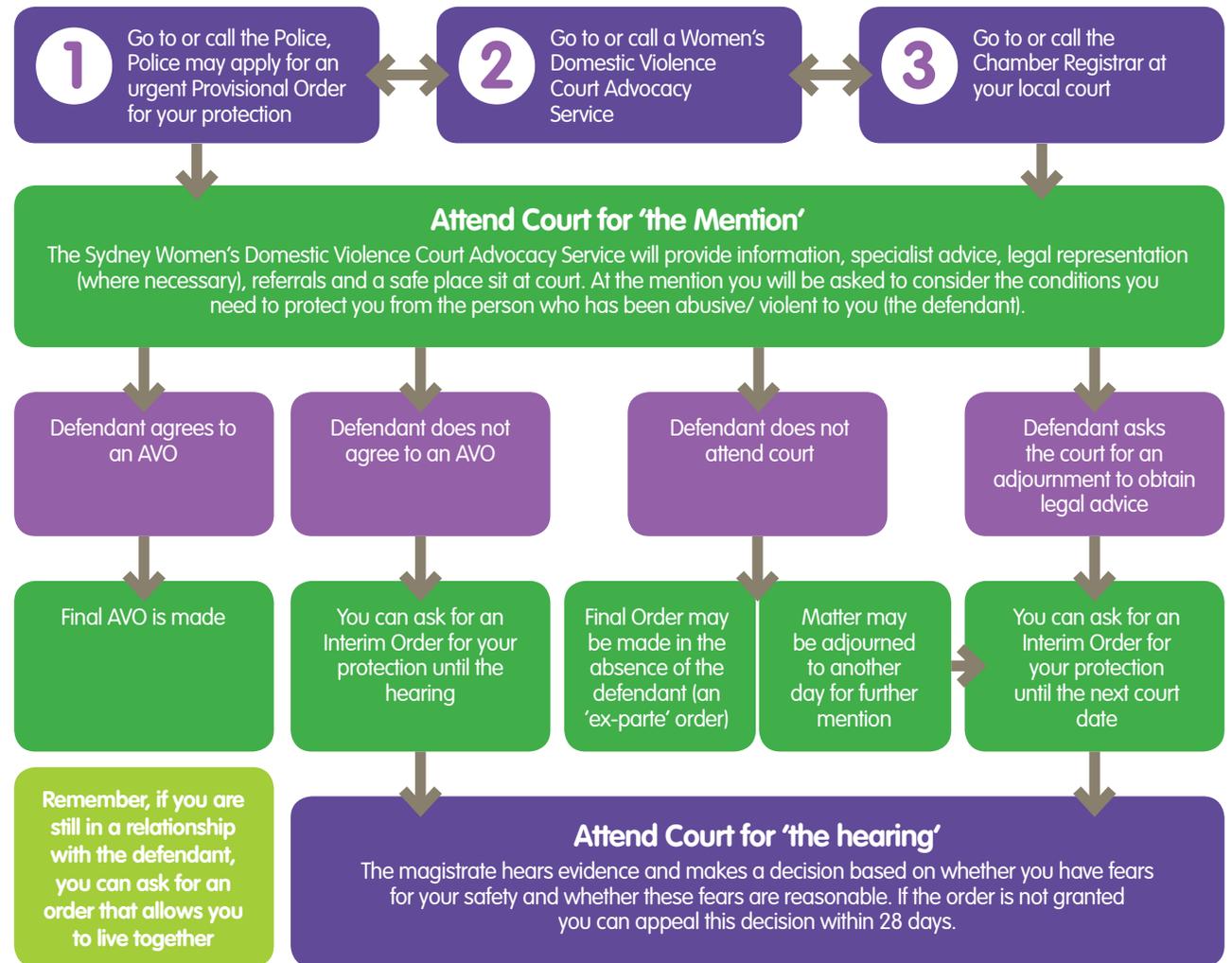
The Sydney WDVCS has an Aboriginal Specialist Worker available to assist Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander women, and a Culturally and Linguistically Diverse (CALD) Specialist Worker to assist women from different cultural backgrounds.

Domestic Violence Practitioner Scheme

The Domestic Violence Practitioner Scheme (DVPS) provides duty solicitor services to Sydney WDVCS clients at Balmain, Downing Centre, Newtown and Waverley Courts. The DVPS uses solicitors from the private profession, who are rostered to attend court on ADVO days to represent Sydney WDVCS clients in private ADVO applications at mentions and at hearings (for eligible clients) through a grant of legal aid. The duty solicitor can also provide legal advice on other matters (such as family law) to all Sydney WDVCS clients.

Understanding the process

You have choices when abuse/violence happens:



Sydney WDVCS can provide information about the Victims Support Scheme.

An application must generally be lodged within 2 years of the injury date.

