

Important information to know



Where to get help

FREE help and confidential advice about DFV, open all day, every day. You can ask for an interpreter.

 **1800 RESPECT**
1800 737 732

 **DVCONNECT**
1800 811 811

Legal services can arrange an interpreter for you for FREE or call:

 **Translating and Interpreting Service**
131 450

A lawyer can give you legal information and advice so that you can make an informed decision about your legal options. It is confidential.

FREE legal advice about domestic and family violence, parenting, divorce and/or property:

 **Women's Legal Service**
1800 957 957

 **Legal Aid Queensland**
1300 65 11 88

FREE legal advice about migration:

 **Refugee and Immigration Legal Service**
(07) 3846 9300

Domestic and Family Violence



If you are in an emergency and/or danger, you should call the Police on 000. You have the right to ask and keep asking the Police for a female interpreter to be called for you.

Domestic and Family Violence (DFV) is not just physical abuse and includes other types of behaviour that makes you feel scared or hurts you. For example, threatening to hurt you, threatening to cancel your visa, threatening to take the children, harassing you by continuously contacting you and/or tracking your location without your consent. It is not okay, and the law can protect you.

A Domestic Violence Protection Order can protect you and your children from future acts of DFV from the person using violence. It can be made by the Police or in a Magistrates Court. It is a legal direction to stop the person from hurting or scaring you and your children. The person will not get in criminal trouble unless they breach the order.

Parenting



In Australia, parents do not have rights to children. Instead, they have responsibilities to make decisions for the children.

If you separate from the other parent, you should only agree to what is safe and in the best interests of the children. It is not an automatic 50/50 arrangement for children.

It is important to get legal advice as early as possible about your options before agreeing or signing any documents.

Divorce



In Australia, a divorce is only an ending of your legal marriage. It does not make decisions about your children and/or property matters. This is done separately.

You must be separated for more than 12 months before you can apply for a divorce. But you can resolve arrangements for children or property matters at any time.

Property



The Court can change the ownership of assets and debts, overseas and in Australia. It includes land, houses, units, superannuation, cars, jewellery, and money.

It is not an automatic 50/50 split of everything.

It is important to get legal advice about your entitlements before agreeing or signing any documents.

Disclaimer: This factsheet contains general information only. It is not legal advice. Last updated November 2020.