





**Do I have to go to court and will I see him there?**

Yes, you must go to court. Usually, you will have to see him at court, although you do not have to talk to him if you do not want to. Most courts have a court support worker and a safe area for women to wait .

**What will happen to him?**

An AVO is a warning to tell him that he must not be violent to you, or threaten or harass you in the future. If he does these things after an AVO is made, he is breaking the AVO. This is called a breach and this is a criminal offence. If this happens, the police can bring him to court and if he is found guilty, he might go to jail or he might have to pay a fine.

**Can we still live together?**

Yes, it is possible to have an AVO and still live in the same house on the condition that he not hurt you.

**Can he still see the children?**

Yes, if you have separated, it is possible to have conditions which protect you, but which do not stop him from seeing the children. If you are worried about your children's safety, you should tell your lawyer or the police.

**Who will represent me at court? Do I have to speak?**

If the police started your AVO they will represent you at court. If you started your AVO through the Chamber Magistrate, you usually need a solicitor to represent you. Court Assistance Schemes may have solicitors for you to see, or you

can apply for legal aid. The police or solicitor will negotiate with the violent person about the AVO. If he does not agree to the AVO, you usually have to give evidence.

**How long will I have to be at the Court?**

In some courts you will have to be there for a few hours while at other courts, you will be there all day. Most courts start at 9.30am and end at 4 pm. Court is not a good place for small children.

**What if I change my mind?**

If you no longer fear for your safety you may ask the court to withdraw the order. If violence reoccurs you can come back to court and reapply. It is a good idea to get advice (see information card) before changing your mind.

**Do I need evidence or witnesses?**

The magistrate will need information to make a decision about the AVO. Sometimes the information you can give yourself will be enough. If there is other information available, for example witnesses, doctors' records or telephone records, the magistrate may want to see this other information. Talk with your solicitor or the police about what you will need before the hearing day.

**What if I am not an Australian resident?**

You can get an AVO if you are not a resident. If your sponsor is violent to you, you can still separate from him and apply to stay in Australia. You should contact the Immigration Advice and Rights Centre for free advice. See information card.



Project of the Redfern Legal Centre, written by  
Immigrant Women's Speakout Association of NSW.  
Funded by the Department of Corrective Services



### Information Card

- \* Telephone Interpreter  
Service . . . . . 131 450
- \* Police switchboard . . . 9281 000
- \* Emergency . . . . . 000
- \* DV helpline (24hrs)  
. . . . . 1800 656463
- \* Homeless Persons . . . 92659081

### Legal Services

- \* Domestic Violence Advocacy  
Service . . . . . 1800 810 784
- \* Women's Legal Resource Centre  
1800 801 501
- \* Redfern Legal Centre -  
. . . . . 9698 7277
- \* Immigration Advice & Rights  
Centre . . . . . 9281 8355

### Financial Assistance

- \* Centrelink . . . . . 13 10 21

### Court Assistance Schemes

- \* Redfern . . . . . 9698 7277
- \* Downing Centre . . . 9698 7277
- \* Newtown . . . . . 9559 2899
- \* Waverley . . . . . 9315 5700
- \* Inner West . . . . . 9744 1866

### Community Support

- \* Immigrant Women's Speakout  
. . . . . 9635 8022
- \* Immigrant Women's Health  
. . . . . 97261016
- \* The Shop, Women and Children's  
Centre . . . . . 9699 9036
- \* Wallamulla Community  
Support . . . . . 9368 1381
- \* Botany Migrant  
Resource Centre . . . 9663 3922