

# What is a domestic violence order?

A domestic violence order helps to protect you, your children and other people named on the order from someone who is violent to you. A domestic violence order will include conditions to stop the respondent from behaving in a way that makes you feel unsafe.

If the police have made a police protection notice or applied for a domestic violence order (DVO) to protect you, they will complete the forms needed.\*  
If not, you need to fill out the Application for a Protection Order (Form DV1) and lodge it at your local Magistrates Court. \*\*

\* A domestic violence order (DVO) is an official document issued by the court with the aim to prevent threats or acts of violence and behaviour that is controlling or causes fear. The term domestic violence order includes temporary (short-term) protection orders and final (long-term) protection orders.

\*\* If you think you need an **urgent temporary protection order**, speak to the court registry staff, a police officer, or call Legal Aid Queensland.

Form DV1s are available online at [www.courts.qld.gov.au](http://www.courts.qld.gov.au) or your local Magistrates Court.

The police will serve (give a copy of the Form DV1 to) the respondent (the person you need protection from), with the date and court address where the application will be heard.

## Mention

The first court date is called a mention. This is usually anytime between the same day and up to 4 weeks after the Form DV1 is lodged at court. On the first court date the magistrate will want to know if the respondent has been served by the police, if they are present in court and whether they agree or disagree with a domestic violence order being made. There may be one or more mentions.

A temporary protection order can be made at a mention and will last until the next mention date or contested hearing date.

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