

LEGAL SERVICES

Women's Legal Service

Free confidential legal information, advice, representation and referrals for women in Victoria.

Call (03) 8622 0600

Victoria Legal Aid

Provides free confidential legal information and advice about family violence. A duty lawyer may also be able to provide representation on the day of court.

Call 1300 792 387

Inner Melbourne Community Legal Service

Free confidential legal information and advice for parties at court with family violence matters, who have other legal problems including family law, criminal law, tenancy and VOCAT.

Call (03) 9328 1885

POLICE SERVICES

Police Lawyers

If police believe your safety is in danger, they may apply for an intervention order on your behalf. Speaking with a police lawyer is important so that they know which protection you require or if you support the application for your safety.

LGBTIQ Liaison Officers (GLLOs)

The GLLOs are a valuable resource to aid in supporting you to interact with mainstream police should you feel uncertain about having direct contact with police. If you contact police ask to speak to a GLLO if possible.

SUPPORT SERVICES

Drummond Street Services

Provides a variety of counselling services to the LGBTIQ communities.

Call (03) 9663 6733

Thorne Harbour Health

Provides a range of services which include prevention education, treatment and care of PLHIV and counselling.

Call 1800 889 887

Switchboard

Switchboard is the Vic partner of Qlife, the national LGBTIQ peer support service.

For information, support and referral:

Call 1800 184 527

With Respect

Support, referral and telecounselling for any LGBTIQ person, their family or friends, who are affected by family violence.

Call 1800 LGBTIQ (1800 542 847)

Men's Referral Service

This service is available for men who are using relationship or family violence between 9am - 9pm.

Call 1300 766 491

EMERGENCY SERVICES

Call 000

The Neighbourhood Justice Centre

241 Wellington St, Collingwood VIC
3066 | T (03) 9948 8777
magistratescourt.vic.gov.au

 @MagCourtVic

LGBTIQ Family Violence Applicant and Respondent Practitioners

The Magistrates' Court of Victoria is committed to ensuring court services are accessible to all members of the community. Part of this commitment is delivering services and programs that are tailored and responsive to the needs of LGBTIQ communities.

An integral part of the court system is the LGBTIQ Family Violence (FV) Practitioner Services. The LGBTIQ FV Applicant Practitioner and Respondent Practitioner are available to support the delivery of a professional, non-discriminatory, accessible response to family violence.

The roles focus on prioritising victim-survivor safety and the accountability of people who use family violence. LGBTIQ FV Practitioners promote trust and understanding between the Victorian Courts and LGBTIQ communities ensuring confidence in a fair and equitable court response.

The LGBTIQ FV Practitioners are based at the Neighbourhood Justice Centre (NJC). There are outreach components to other Melbourne metropolitan Courts with an ability to provide secondary consults to remote Courts within the Victorian region.

How can I seek support from the LGBTIQ FV Practitioner Services?

For matters heard in court, please talk to the registrar who can refer you to an LGBTIQ FV Practitioner.

For matters that haven't been heard in court, please reach out to the LGBTIQ FV Practitioners for an initial consult.

What services can I expect?

LGBTIQ FV Practitioners receive specific training to be sensitive to the needs of LGBTIQ court users.

Services include intake and assessment interviews, safety plans whilst at court; and referrals to other services such as legal services, Victoria Police and other specialist services.

Will I see someone on the first day?

Matters can take some time before they are ready to be heard in court, particularly if the parties are being assisted by the available services.

Referrals to the LGBTIQ FV Practitioners are prioritised based on risk. This means reviewing family violence intervention orders based on a range of factors to determine risk.

Where possible, the LGBTIQ FV Practitioners can engage prior to a court listing day.

Signs of family violence

Family violence occurs when someone abuses power and control over a family member(s). It is a pattern of behaviour that involves the use of coercive, controlling and abusive behaviours, designed to oppress, intimidate, humiliate, undermine and isolate.

Research has shown that some people within LGBTIQ communities may not know they are experiencing family violence and may delay getting help.

Family violence includes:

- physical abuse
- psychological abuse
- emotional abuse
- sexual abuse
- economic abuse
- threatening behaviour
- coercive behaviour

Examples of family violence:

- using someone's HIV status as a threat
- gaslighting
- not respecting the right to say 'no'
- controlling access to money
- pressure to conform to gender or social norms

If you are seeking support from the LGBTIQ Family Violence Practitioner Services please email: LGBTI.FV@courts.vic.gov.au