

# Your Family Violence Court Hearing

## IMPORTANT INFORMATION FOR COURT USERS

Issued 28 October 2020

The court is changing the way that it manages family violence matters to better protect the safety and wellbeing of court users and staff. These new practices will reduce the number of people in our buildings so that we can continue to safely respond to family violence matters.

### What do I need to do?

From 12 October 2020 at regional court locations and from 9 November 2020 at metropolitan court locations, the court may hear and finalise your matter.

You **must** contact the court **3 business days** before your court hearing, otherwise the matter may be heard in your absence.

### How can I contact the court?

You can contact the court by:

- Emailing the attached **FVIO Notice of Address for Contact and Service** form to the court where your matter is listed;
- Sending an email advising how you wish to proceed; or
- Calling the court, if you do not have access to email.

Contact details for your closest court and information about the court can be found on the website:

[www.mcv.vic.gov.au](http://www.mcv.vic.gov.au)

### What changes to court hearing process will affect me?

The court recommends **you do not physically attend court**. The court can hear your matter online. Physical attendances at court are to be by prior arrangement. You can discuss your appearance options by contacting your closest court via the link above.



The court can organise a telephone interpreter to assist you. Please advise the court if you need an interpreter. The court staff member can discuss your options with you and refer you to services which can assist you.

### Should I get legal advice?

You are encouraged to get legal advice before your court hearing date. The following legal services may be able to provide some free legal advice, or you can contact a private lawyer in your area:

Victoria Legal Aid	<a href="http://www.legalaid.vic.gov.au">www.legalaid.vic.gov.au</a>	1300 792 387
Community Legal Centre	<a href="http://www.fclc.org.au">www.fclc.org.au</a>	1300 792 387
Victorian Aboriginal Legal Service	<a href="http://www.vals.org.au">www.vals.org.au</a>	1800 064 865
Djirra Legal Services	<a href="http://www.djirra.org.au">www.djirra.org.au</a>	1800 105 303

### Other support available

**If you are in immediate danger, call '000'.**

If you need support or have safety concerns, please contact:

Safe Steps – Family Violence Response Centre	<a href="http://www.safesteps.org.au">www.safesteps.org.au</a>	1800 015 188
InTouch – Multicultural Centre Against Family Violence	<a href="http://www.intouch.org.au">www.intouch.org.au</a>	1800 755 988
1800RESPECT – Family Violence Counselling Service	<a href="http://www.1800respect.org.au">www.1800respect.org.au</a>	1800 737 732

## FVIO Notice of Address for Contact and Service

Please complete this form and return it to your local Magistrates' Court by email or mail no later than 3 business days before your court hearing, otherwise contact your closest court.

<b>Case Number</b>		<b>Court Date</b>	
<b>Your Name</b>		<b>DOB:</b>	

I am the:  **Affected Family Member (AFM)**  **Respondent**

Are you, or someone involved in your court matters:

Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander?

Yes  No

Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Trans and gender diverse, Intersex, Queer or questioning?

Yes  No

### Your Contact Details

<b>Phone</b>		<input type="checkbox"/> My number is confidential
<b>Email</b>		<input type="checkbox"/> My email is confidential
<b>Address</b>		<input type="checkbox"/> My address is confidential
	<b>Suburb</b>	<b>Postcode</b>

**The safest way to contact me is by:**  Phone  Email  Mail

Please note: If the court is contacting you by phone, this will occur between the hours of 9am and 5pm Monday to Friday

### Support Services

Is a lawyer helping you with this matter?  Yes  No

If yes, please provide their details:

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Law firm: \_\_\_\_\_

I would like to speak to the free duty lawyer about this matter

Yes  No

Information about their role can be found attached to this form

I would like to be referred to the Family Violence practitioner where available\*

Yes  No

**I understand and agree to my contact details included in this notice being shared with the appropriate organisation where I have indicated YES above**

Yes  No

\* Family Violence practitioners, including Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander practitioners or LGBTIQ practitioners may be available at the court location. Information about their role and availability can be found at [www.mcv.vic.gov.au](http://www.mcv.vic.gov.au)

### Court Hearing

If the matter cannot be finalised on this date it will be adjourned to a later date

**I am the AFM and I want an intervention order**

Yes  No

I have the technology required to appear online

Yes  No

Please advise of any reason why you can't appear online:

**I am the respondent and I want the court to know:**

I want my case adjourned. I understand any orders in place will continue to the new date

Yes  No

If yes, are you contesting the order?  Yes  No  Other reason for adjournment:

I accept a Final Intervention Order being made with the same conditions as the Interim Order and will not be attending the court hearing

Yes  No

I have the technology required to appear online

Yes  No

Please advise of any reason why you can't appear online:

**IF YOU HAVE ANY QUESTIONS ABOUT THIS FORM PLEASE CONTACT YOUR LOCAL COURT OR FREE LEGAL SERVICE**

Information filed with the court forms part of the court file and may be used to assist service of any court documents

# Do you have a court date for a Family Violence Intervention Order?



Get free legal advice over the phone before your court date, and representation on the day at court.



Legal advice will help you to understand the law and what will happen at court, as well as your rights and responsibilities.



Legal advice can link you to support for other issues which may be affected by family violence, including parenting arrangements, child protection and migration.

## You can get free legal advice from:

### Victoria Legal Aid

Legal Help: **1300 792 387** or use Legal Help Chat at [www.legalaid.vic.gov.au](http://www.legalaid.vic.gov.au)

### Federation of Community Legal Centres

Visit [www.fclc.org.au/familyviolence](http://www.fclc.org.au/familyviolence) to find your local community legal centre

### State-wide specialist community legal centres

#### Women's Legal Service

Tel: 1800 133 302 or  
(03) 8622 0600  
E: [admin@womenslegal.org.au](mailto:admin@womenslegal.org.au)

#### Youthlaw

Youth specialists  
Tel: (03) 9113 9500  
E: [legal@youthlaw.asn.au](mailto:legal@youthlaw.asn.au)

#### Seniors Rights Victoria

Elder abuse specialists  
Tel: 1300 368 821  
E: [info@seniorsrights.org.au](mailto:info@seniorsrights.org.au)

#### InTouch Legal Centre

Multicultural Centre Against Family Violence  
Tel: 1800 755 988 or  
(03) 9413 6500  
E: [admin@intouch.asn.au](mailto:admin@intouch.asn.au)

#### Victorian Aboriginal Legal Service

Tel: 1800 064 865 or  
(03) 9418 5999  
E: [vals@vals.org.au](mailto:vals@vals.org.au)

#### Djirra

Aboriginal Family Violence Legal Service  
Tel: 1800 105 303 or  
(03) 9244 3333  
E: [info.afvls@djirra.org.au](mailto:info.afvls@djirra.org.au)