

The Magistrates' Court of Victoria is a prescribed Information Sharing Entity (ISE) under Part 5A of the *Family Violence Protection Act 2008* (Vic) and Part 6A of the *Child Wellbeing and Safety Act 2005* (Vic) (the "information sharing schemes"). The information sharing schemes allow us to share information about court users when it relates to the use or experience of family violence, to support the safety of victim survivors and promote the wellbeing of children.

What information do we collect?

The Court is committed to ensuring the safety of people and children experiencing family violence. To help us do this, we collect personal information from you.

This information can include:

- Your name, including any aliases or previous names.
- Your date of birth and the dates of birth of any children in your care.
- Your address, contact details and how you would like to be contacted.

We may collect information that relates to your experience of family violence, such as:

- Information that is provided to us as part of your family violence intervention order application.
- Any history of family violence, other violent offences or criminal matters relating to the respondent.
- Information relating to the health and wellbeing of any children at risk of family violence.

Why do I need to complete this consent form?

The Court needs your consent to share any family violence risk-relevant information about you with other prescribed Information Sharing Entities (ISEs).

However, if there is a serious threat to an individual's life, health or safety, or to promote the wellbeing of a child, the law allows this information to be shared without your consent.

What will we do with your information if you consent?

- Your consent will allow the Court to share family violence risk-relevant information with other ISEs for the purposes of assessing and managing your risk of family violence.
- Your information will not be shared with the respondent named in your application. Your information will be held securely by the Court.
- You have the right to withdraw your consent at any time.

Who can access my information?

Different areas of the Court may be able to access different pieces of information about you:

- Court staff and magistrates have access to the information in your court file in line with their roles and responsibilities. Family violence intervention orders and other court documents will be served on the respondent by a registrar of the Court or by Victoria Police as required by the legislation. This does not mean that the respondent has access to your personal information.
- If Victoria Police serve an intervention order or any other court documents, they will be able to view a family violence intervention order and the associated application. The police will be provided with your contact phone number to allow them to inform you when an order has been served on the respondent.
- Victoria Police can access copies of court related information and narratives in accordance with the Magistrates' Court Act 1989 and the Family Violence Protection Act 2008 (Vic).
- With your consent, a counselling provider may contact you to support your safety while a respondent undertakes the counselling provider's court mandated counselling program (CMCOP). The respondent does not have access to your personal information.
- Information Sharing Entities can request information about you from the Court where it protects you from family violence or where it promotes the wellbeing of a child. For more information or to see a full list of ISEs, please refer to <https://www.vic.gov.au/ise-list-search>.
- If sharing your information is critical to keeping you or anyone around you safe from a serious threat, we may need to give your information to emergency services, like the police, or court security.

What if I don't want my information shared?

If you are seeking protection through the court, you can tell us what information we can and can't share.

Where information relates to a child's wellbeing, we don't need to seek a parent or carer's consent to share this information.

At any stage, if we decide there is a serious threat to your safety or the safety of a child in your care, we may need to share information without your consent to keep you or the child/children safe.

How is my information kept safe?

We keep your information safe by ensuring only authorised court personnel have access to it. The Magistrates' Court of Victoria takes cyber-security and the security of our information very seriously.

What can I do to correct information, or make a complaint?

You have the right to ask for a copy of your application or order and ask for it to be corrected if you think it is wrong. If you'd like to ask for a copy of your information or have it corrected, please contact your local court.

If you're not happy with how we have handled your information or have feedback on how we could improve our services, you can submit a Feedback and Complaints form which can be found on our website: <https://www.mcv.vic.gov.au/about-us/feedback>.

Consent form

Please complete the sections below and sign the consent form.

Family Name:	
Given Name:	
Date of Birth:	
Current address:	
Email Address	
Contact number:	

I _____ (FIRST NAME, LAST NAME), understand the collection, use and disclosure of risk relevant information under Part 5A of the *Family Violence Protection Act 2008*. I understand that prescribed ISEs may request risk relevant information for the purposes of assessing my risk of family violence, or for the purpose of managing my ongoing safety. I understand that information may be shared without my consent if there is a serious threat to an individual's life, health, safety or to promote the wellbeing of a child.

Consent (*please tick*): ☐ **I consent** to all relevant information being shared with ISEs and CMCOP counselling providers

☐ **I consent** to my contact details and date of birth details being provided to ISEs and CMCOP counselling providers

☐ **I do not consent** to the sharing of any information to ISEs or CMCOP counselling providers

Signature:

Or

☐ verbal consent given

Date:

Date filed:

Case number: