



REACH OUT FOR HELP

ASK QUESTIONS, KNOW YOUR NEXT STEP, YOU'RE NOT ALONE.

DOMESTIC AND FAMILY VIOLENCE IS NOT OKAY

Domestic and family violence is not part of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander culture.

All of us, including our children, families and partners, should be safe, protected and free from fear. When people go to court for domestic and family violence, it's important they have all the support and help they need to:

- » Prepare for going to court.
- » Feel as safe and comfortable as possible during their court appearance.
- » Understand clearly what is happening in court, what has been decided, and how this will affect them and their family. This includes understanding they must follow the rules of any order or Police Protection Notice.



Queensland
Government



SUPPORTING COMMUNITY MEMBERS WHEN THEY GO TO COURT.

Service providers and community organisations can play a key role in helping Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander community members to get the information and support they need before, during and after going to court. This can include:

1. BEFORE THEY GO:

- » Make sure they have the whole day free, know where the court is, when they need to be there and have support to get there.
- » Make sure they have made childcare and other arrangements to ensure they are able to attend.
- » Let them know they can take along another adult to support them.
- » Let them know where they can get legal advice to understand their options before they go to court, and encourage them to speak to court staff about safety concerns when going to court.

Court staff can arrange additional safety measures. See the Court Safety Form which can be found on the Queensland Courts website: www.courts.qld.gov.au

2. WHEN THEY GO:

- » Encourage them to ask lots of questions to ensure they understand what is happening.
- » Encourage them to get help from court staff if they feel unsure.
- » Encourage them to tell court staff if they feel unsafe.
- » Make sure they collect a copy of their order.

3. AFTER THEY GO:

- » Make sure they understand all of the rules of any orders that have been made.
- » Make sure they know what can happen or what to do if the rules of an order aren't followed.
- » Help them to get more information or support if they need it.
- » Let them know where they can get legal advice to understand an order and what has been decided in court.



RESOURCES YOU CAN SHARE WITH COMMUNITY MEMBERS.

To help to build awareness about domestic and family violence, domestic violence orders and the court process, we've developed a range of resources which you can share with people in your community.

THIS INCLUDES:

- » A discrete booklet with information for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people affected by domestic and family violence (there is room in the back of this for you to add in local service provider or support details).
- » A wallet card containing basic information about the importance of preparing for court appearances, asking questions and seeking help (there is room for you to add in local service provider or support details).
- » A video explaining the variety of forms domestic and family violence can take.

All of these resources are also available in Torres Strait Islander Yumplatok and Wik Mungkan. For copies of these resources, or for more information, please contact: dfvcourtprogram@justice.qld.gov.au