

facts

- ◆ Violence against women is a crime.
- ◆ All women and children have the right to live safely in and outside the home.
- ◆ Most women experience violence by someone they know and trust.
- ◆ Victims of violence have the right to be believed and to receive support.

facts

what can the law do?

The law is there to protect you.

If you have been sexually assaulted you can report the crime to police and if there is sufficient evidence the case may go to court.

You can apply for victim's compensation within two years of the act of violence.

If you are experiencing violence from your partner or ex-partner, an Apprehended Violence Order (AVO) can be made by the court, with conditions to say that the violent person should not behave in ways that frighten or hurt you.

The behaviour you fear may be physical abuse and/or non physical abuse such as harassing you or your family members, stalking, sexual harassment or intimidation.

A police officer or Chamber Registrar (at the Local Court) can help organise an AVO application for you.

An AVO is not a criminal charge but if the person breaks the terms of the AVO (called a breach), it is a criminal offence and the police can arrest the person. This may lead to a court appearance and possible sentence.

Help is available. There are services in your community which can provide advice, assistance and support.

For more information about violence against women visit www.lawlink.nsw.gov.au/vaw or phone 02 9716 2061

Sexual assault

Contact the NSW Rape Crisis Centre for 24 hr counselling or to find out your nearest sexual assault service.
1800 424 017
www.nswrapecrisis.com.au

Domestic violence

Domestic Violence Line – 24 hrs1800 65 64 63
 TTY1800 67 14 42
 Domestic Violence Advocacy Service
 (free legal advice & your nearest
 Court Support Scheme)8745 6999
 Outside Sydney1800 810 784
 TTY1800 626 267

Indigenous women

Indigenous Women's Legal Contact Line ..1800 639 784
 Wirringa Baiya Aboriginal Women's
 Legal Centre1800 686 587
 Mudgin-Gal Aboriginal Corporation9319 2613
 Police – Aboriginal Liaison Officers9281 0000

Women with disabilities

Action for People with Disability Inc9449 5355
 Intellectual Disability Rights Service9318 0144
 Outside Sydney1800 666 611
 Disability Discrimination Legal Centre9310 7722
 Outside Sydney1800 800 708
 TTY9310 4320
 Disability Complaints Service9319 6549
 Outside Sydney1800 422 015
 TTY9318 2138

Women from non-English speaking backgrounds

Immigrant Women's Speakout9635 8022
 Immigration Advice and Rights Centre9281 8355
 Telephone Interpreter Service (TIS) – 24 hrs131 450

Older women

The Aged-Care Rights Service9281 3600
 Outside Sydney1800 424 079
 Older Women's Network9247 7046
 Department of Ageing, Disability
 and Home Care9367 6811

Younger women

Lifeline – 24 hrs13 11 14
 Kids Help Line – 24 hrs1800 55 1800
www.kidshelp.com.au

Lawstuff

Email your questions
 about the lawwww.lawstuff.org.au

National Children's and
 Youth Law Centre9398 7488
 Legal Aid HotLine for under 18s1800 101 810

Dympna House
 (resource centre for women and
 children affected by sexual assault)9797 6733
 Outside Sydney1800 654 119

Lesbians

Lesbian and Gay Legal Rights Service9332 1966
 Lesbian and Gay Anti-Violence Project9206 2066
 Outside Sydney1800 063 060
 Gay and Lesbian Counselling Service8594 9596
 Police – Gay and Lesbian
 Liaison Officers9281 0000

Family law

Law Access Line1300 888 529
www.lawaccess.nsw.gov.au
 Women's Legal Services NSW9749 5533
 Outside Sydney1800 801 501
 TTY1800 674 333

Women's and children's support

Women's Legal Services NSW9749 5533
Outside Sydney1800 801 501
TTY1800 674 333
DoCS Helpline – 24 hrs132 111
TTY9633 7698

Victims of crime

Victims Support Line – 24 hrs1800 633 063

Police

In an emergency call000

Legal information

The Women's Legal Services NSW can provide information and referral to your local Community Legal Centre or Legal Aid Office.

Women's Legal Services NSW9749 5533
Outside Sydney1800 801 501
TTY1800 674 333

Discrimination and harassment

Anti-Discrimination Board1800 670 812
TTY9268 5522

Other

The Guardianship Tribunal can legally appoint guardians and financial managers for people 16 years and over.1800 463 928

Violence often escalates over time.
It is better to take action and seek support early. ACT NOW!



The Violence Against Women Specialist Unit implements the NSW Strategy to Reduce Violence Against Women, which is the State Government's key initiative to address violence against women.
Phone 02 9716 2061 vaw-unit@community.nsw.gov.au
www.lawlink.nsw.gov.au/vaw
Communities Division – NSW Department of Community Services

Violence against women
is *never* excusable

Many forms of violence are crimes

Violence can take many forms and does not always leave obvious injuries such as bruises or broken bones.

Violence against women includes:

- ◆ **Sexual harassment** – *unwanted and unwelcome sexual attention*
- ◆ **Stalking** – *following, watching, going to places like home, work or social venues*
- ◆ **Domestic violence** – *includes physical, financial, emotional or sexual abuse*
- ◆ **Sexual assault** – *being forced to take part in any kind of unwanted sexual contact*
- ◆ **Social abuse** – *aims to isolate victim from contact with friends and family*
- ◆ **Hate crimes** – *abuse for belonging to certain groups – can be homophobic, racist or ageist motivated crimes*

A victim of violence is *never* responsible for the violence

Violence happens in all cultures. Religion and culture are not the cause, or an excuse for violence.

It can be hard to take the first step out of a violent relationship.

Different groups of women have different needs. This brochure gives some contact numbers where you can get free information and advice to support your choices, and your needs.

violence against women

women, violence & the law

different groups, different needs...

- Indigenous women • Lesbians
- Older women • Rural women
- Women with disabilities
- Women from non-English speaking backgrounds
- Younger women

