

Women's Domestic Violence

# COURT ADVOCACY SERVICE

Wagga Wagga • Tumut • Young  
Narrandera • Cootamundra • Gundagai  
Junee • Temora • West Wyalong

A SERVICE TO ASSIST WOMEN AT  
COURT WHO ARE VICTIMS OF  
DOMESTIC AND FAMILY VIOLENCE.



Suite 15, The 'Piazza'  
46-52 Baylis St., PO Box 2154  
Wagga Wagga NSW 2650

**TELEPHONE: (02) 6921 6227**

Fax: (02) 6921 6233

Email: [cas@waggafamilysupport.org.au](mailto:cas@waggafamilysupport.org.au)

[www.waggafamilysupport.org.au](http://www.waggafamilysupport.org.au)

## **What is the Women's Domestic Violence Court Advocacy Service (WDVCAS)?**

WDVCAS supports women who are experiencing domestic violence. WDVCAS can provide information, advocacy, support and referral for women during the court process.

## **Why have I been given this pamphlet?**

By law, NSW Police refer all women who are a victim of a domestic violence incident to a WDVCAS unit.

WDVCAS are required to contact these women to provide information regarding domestic violence and any support needed at court regarding the ADVO process.

WDVCAS will contact you on the first business day after receiving a referral. You can also contact WDVCAS directly:

Mon– Fri, 9am—5pm on 0269 216 227.

## **What support does WDVCAS provide?**

WDVCAS can;

- explain ADVOs and how you can go about stopping domestic violence
- ensure you and your family are appropriately involved and supported throughout the criminal justice process
- attend court with you
- talk with you about your options at court and what happens after your day at court
- work with you and your children to identify your needs such as counselling, accommodation, financial issues and family law
- work with you to help improve your safety
- tell you about other services
- put you in touch with an Indigenous caseworker
- arrange for an interpreter.

## **What is an ADVO?**

An ADVO is an apprehended domestic violence order made by the court to protect a person from Domestic and Family Violence. The order places restrictions on the person who has been violent to you, your children or other family members. They must obey the order made by the court.

An ADVO is not a criminal conviction, although the person who has been violent may also have been charged with a criminal offence.

Making an ADVO does not mean that the person will have a criminal record or that they will go to gaol, but they can be charged with a criminal offence if they break or 'breach' the order.

## **What happens if the defendant (the person who harmed you) breaks the ADVO?**

Breaking or breaching an ADVO is a crime.

The penalty for breaching an ADVO can be up to two years in gaol. The defendant must obey the order whether or not it is a final order.

## **How do you report a breach of an ADVO?**

If you are in immediate danger, call '000' and ask for the police, or go to your local police station. Tell the police that the defendant has breached the ADVO. It is important to report a breach as soon as you can.

## What is domestic violence?

Domestic violence is a crime.

Domestic violence is behaviour used by a person to gain or maintain power or control over another person, with whom they are in a domestic or family relationship. It can take many forms and involves a pattern of abuse.

- Psychological and emotional abuse
- Physical abuse
- Sexual assault
- Financial control
- Social control/isolation
- Stalking
- Using children to create guilt
- Using dominance over the victim
- Minimising, denying their behaviour
- Blaming someone else for their behaviour

## VIOLENCE WHEEL



## **The work of WDV CAS and your privacy**

Your involvement with WDV CAS services is voluntary and you can choose not to participate. You can also withdraw at any time.

If you have been supported by WDV CAS you are allowed to request access to your own information and if any details are not correct you can ask to have them changed.

No information about you will be disclosed to the defendant.

## **How can I use this service?**

If you need any information about applying for an ADVO and the court process, or if you want general information about domestic and family violence you can contact WDV CAS by phone or by dropping into our office.

## **When does WDV CAS operate?**

The service operates at the Wagga Wagga local court and also each court list-day at Tumut, Narrandera, Cootamundra, Junee, Temora, Young, West Wyalong and Gundagai. This is when most ADVOs appear at court for the first time.

On these days WDV CAS workers will be available at court to assist women applying for ADVOs.

## **Hours of Operation**

WDV CAS operates **Monday to Friday 9am to 5pm**

An answering machine will operate during the times workers are not available.

More information and support  
**For all emergencies  
contact the police on: 000**

For other police information contact the domestic violence liaison officer (DVLO) at your local police station.

**Domestic Violence Line**

24– hour domestic violence counselling helpline

Phone: 1800 656 463 (Domestic free call)

TTY: 1800 671 442

**Women’s Legal Services NSW**

Domestic Violence Legal Advice Line

Phone: 1800 810 784 (Domestic free call)

Women’s Indigenous Legal Contact Line

Phone: 1800 639 784 (Domestic free Call)

**LawAccess NSW**

A free government telephone service that provides legal information, advice and referrals

Phone: 1300 888 529

**Victims Services** (including support for male victims)

Victims Access Line

24-hour information, referral and support line

Phone: 1800 633 063

Victims Services Aboriginal Contact Line

Phone: 1800 019 123 (Domestic free call)

**Translating and Interpreting Service**

Phone: 131 450

WDVCAS is under the auspices of  
Wagga Wagga Family Support Services Inc.  
Funding for WDVCAS is provided by Legal Aid NSW

