



South West Sydney Women's Domestic Violence Court Advocacy Service

What is this service?

WDVCASs provide information, assistance and court advocacy services to women and children experiencing domestic violence.

Services we provide before a court appearance

1. Information about the court process, AVO conditions and any other relevant matters
2. Practical information such as how to find the court, where to go once a client arrives at court etc
3. Liaise with Police, Solicitors, Court Staff and other support workers on a client's behalf
4. Advocate on a client's behalf
5. Refer clients to appropriate services

Please note this is a support service. Our staff are very experienced in this area but are not solicitors and do not give legal advice or legal assistance. If you require legal advice you will be referred to a duty solicitor.

Support at court

Support workers from the SWSWDVCAS program attend local courts on AVO list days currently:

Liverpool Court – Tuesdays

Bankstown Court – Thursdays

Fairfield Court – Fridays

Our workers will help women through the process of taking out an Apprehended Violence Order (AVO) for domestic violence matters.

Our workers make sure that women have all the information they need and experience as little stress as possible during the court and AVO process. We help women achieve the most successful and appropriate outcome for their case.

Services we provide at court include:

1. A safe room – a private room where women seeking an AVO can wait for their case to be heard
2. Information – support workers explain the AVO process and any related issues to make sure women fully understand their situation and feel confident about the orders they are seeking
3. Advocacy – support workers talk to Police, Police Prosecutors, court staff and solicitors to make sure each woman's wishes are put forward and each case receives the best attention
4. Referrals to:
 - Duty Solicitor (family law advice, assistance for female defendants without charges, private AVO applications)
 - Police
 - Other support agencies eg. counselling, casework services, refuges, victim's compensation applications, Centrelink, Co-ordinated Family Dispute Resolution

SWSWDVCAS has an Aboriginal Specialist Worker and a Culturally and Linguistically Diverse (CALD) Specialist Worker.

How to get help from SWSWDVCAS

If your AVO matter will be heard in the Fairfield, Liverpool or Bankstown Local Court then we can assist you. It is best to contact SWSWDVCAS as soon as possible. Early contact means support workers have more time to help you.

If you need an interpreter, call us using the free Translating and Interpreting Service (TIS) on 131 450.

Phone: (02) 9601 6988

Mobile: 0452 515 057

Fax: (02) 9600 6244

Email: swwdvcas@swwslc.org.au

If you are not sure in which court your AVO matter will be heard, contact the Police Officer who assisted you or the Domestic Violence Liaison Officer in the same Police Station.

In many cases Police refer female domestic violence victims directly to us. If this happens, we will call you before your court date and ask you if you want our help.

More Information

See our [Useful Link](#) section for other DV support services.