



SYDNEY WOMEN'S DOMESTIC VIOLENCE COURT ADVOCACY SERVICE

What is this service?

Sydney Women's Domestic Violence Court Advocacy Service (Sydney WDVCAS) provides information, specialist 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 that although our staff members are specialist domestic violence workers, they 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.

Assistance at court

Specialist workers from the Sydney WDVCAS attend the following local courts on AVO list days:

Newtown Local Court – Mondays
Downing Centre Local Court - Wednesdays
Waverley Local Court – Thursdays

The Sydney WDVCAS office is located on level 5 at the Downing Centre Local Court and is open from 8:30am to 4:30pm daily.

Specialist workers will assist women through the process of Apprehended Domestic Violence Order (ADVO) proceedings.

Our specialist workers will ensure that our clients have all the information they need and will experience as little stress as possible during the ADVO court process. We will help our clients achieve the safest and most appropriate outcome for their matter.

Services we provide at court include:

1. A safe room – a private room where clients seeking an ADVO can wait for their matter to be heard (daily at the Downing Centre Court, on Mondays at Newtown Court and on Thursdays at Waverley Court)
2. Information – specialist workers will explain the ADVO process and any related issues to make sure clients fully understand their situation and feel informed about the ADVO conditions being sought
3. Advocacy – specialist workers will talk to Police, Police Prosecutors, Court Staff and Solicitors to make sure each client’s wishes are put forward
4. Referrals to:
 - Duty Solicitor (for advice about the ADVO, family law advice, assistance for female defendants without charges, private ADVO applications and cross applications)
 - Police
 - Other support agencies eg counselling, casework services, refuges, Victims Services applications, Centrelink and Family Dispute Resolution

How to get help from Sydney WDVCS

If your ADVO matter is to be heard at the Newtown, Downing Centre or Waverley Local Courts, then Sydney WDVCS can assist you. It is best to contact Sydney WDVCS as soon as possible. Early contact means the specialist workers have more time to assist you.

If you need an interpreter, we can arrange to speak to you using the Translating and Interpreting Service (TIS) on 131 450.

Phone: (02) 9287 7505

Email: slcp@swwslc.org.au

If you are not sure in which court your ADVO matter will be heard, contact the Officer in Charge (OIC), being the Police Officer who assisted you at the time of the incident or the Domestic Violence Liaison Officer in the same Police Station.

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

More Information

See our [Useful Links](#) section for other domestic violence support services.