

LEGAL SERVICES

A family violence intervention order is a legal process, so legal advice will help you. The following legal services may be available to you.

Women's Legal Service

Free confidential legal information, advice, representation and referrals for women in Victoria.

Call (03) 8622 0600

Victoria Legal Aid

Victoria Legal Aid can help you with free information and advice about family violence.

Call 1300 792 387

On the day of court, a duty lawyer may be able to provide free, confidential legal advice, information or representation.

Inner Melbourne Community Legal Service

Free confidential legal information and advice for parties at court with family violence matters, who have other legal problems including family law, criminal law, tenancy and VOCAT.

Call (03) 9328 1885

POLICE SERVICES

Police Lawyers

If police believe your safety is in danger, they may apply for an intervention order on your behalf.

Speaking with a police lawyer is important so that they know which protection you require or if you support the application for your safety.

SUPPORT SERVICES

Thorne Harbour Health

Thorne Harbour Health provides a range of services which include prevention education, treatment and care of PLHIV and counselling services.

Call 1800 889 887

Drummond Street Services

This service provides a variety of counselling services options to the LGBTIQ community.

Call (03) 9663 6733

Switchboard / QLife

Switchboard is staffed by volunteer counsellors and peers who can direct you to the right supports.

Call 1800 184 527

Webchat is also offered between 3pm-12am. Visit www.switchboard.org.au

Men's Referral Service

This service is available for men who are using relationship or family violence between 9am - 9pm.

Call 1300 766 491

Emergency Services

Call 000

The LGBTIQ Gay and Lesbian Liaison Officers (GLLO) are also a valuable resource to aid in supporting you to interact with mainstream police support should you feel uncertain about having direct contact with police. If you contact police ask to speak to a GLLO if possible.

The Neighbourhood Justice Centre

241 Wellington St, Collingwood VIC

3066 | T 1800 551 927

magistratescourt.vic.gov.au



@MagCourtVic

LGBTIQ Family Violence Applicant and Respondent Practitioners

The Magistrates' Court of Victoria is committed to ensuring court services are accessible to all members of the community. Part of this commitment is delivering services and programs that are tailored and responsive to the needs of the LGBTIQ community.

An integral part of the court system is the LGBTIQ practitioner team. The LGBTIQ Family Violence (FV) Applicant Practitioner and Respondent Practitioner are available to support the delivery of a professional, non-discriminatory, accessible response to family violence.

The roles focus on prioritising victim safety and perpetrator accountability. LGBTIQ practitioners promote trust and understanding between the Victorian Courts and LGBTIQ communities ensuring confidence in a fair and equitable court response.

The LGBTIQ practitioner team is currently based at the Neighbourhood Justice Centre (NJC). There are outreach components to other Melbourne metropolitan Courts with an ability to provide secondary consults to remote Courts within the Victorian region.

How can I seek support from the LGBTIQ team?

For matters heard in court, please talk to the registrar who can refer you to an LGBTIQ FV practitioner.

For matters that haven't been heard in court, please reach out to the LGBTIQ practitioner team for an initial consult.

What services can I expect?

LGBTIQ FV practitioners receive specific training to be sensitive to the needs of LGBTIQ court users.

Services include intake and assessment interviews, safety plans whilst at court; and referrals to other services such as legal services and Victoria Police.

Will I see someone on the first day?

Matters can take some time before they are ready to be heard in court, particularly if the parties are being assisted by the available services.

Referrals to the LGBTIQ FV practitioner team are prioritised based on risk. This means reviewing family violence intervention orders based on a range of factors to determine risk.

Where possible, those considered high risk will meet the day before a family violence listing day.

Signs for LGBTIQ family violence

The core feature of any family violence is the use of coercive control. Coercive control may manifest in many unique ways. The purpose of someone engaging in this behaviour is to exert a degree of power and control in the relationship.

Research has shown that those in the LGBTIQ community may not know they are experiencing family violence and may delay getting help.

Family violence includes:

- physical abuse
- psychological abuse
- emotional abuse
- sexual abuse
- financial abuse
- social abuse

Examples of LGBTIQ family violence:

- using someone's HIV status as a threat
- gaslighting
- not respecting the right to say 'no'
- controlling access to money
- pressure to conform to gender or social norms

If you seek support for LGBTIQ family violence, please email LGBTI.FV@courts.vic.gov.au