

# How to Use this Information Sheet



When you see the word “**we**” it means WWILD Sexual Violence Prevention Association Inc.



You can get help to read this information.

You can ask a worker or someone you trust.

Not bold

We have written some words in **bold blue** writing.

**Bold blue**

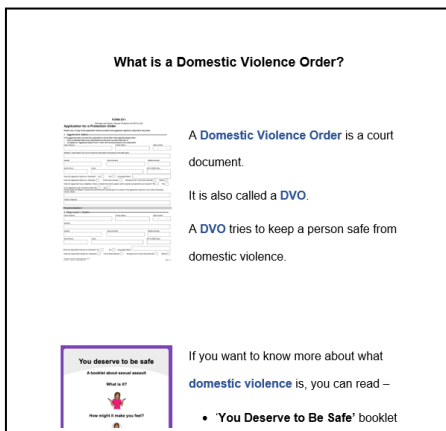
We will explain what these words mean.

# Going to Court for a Domestic Violence Order – Respondent



This information sheet is about going to court for a **Domestic Violence Order**.

It is also called a **DVO**.



If you want more information about **Domestic Violence Orders**, you can read:

- **‘What is a Domestic Violence Order?’** information sheet.



You are the **respondent**.

This is the person who has to follow the rules of the **DVO**.



The **aggrieved** is the person who wants protection.

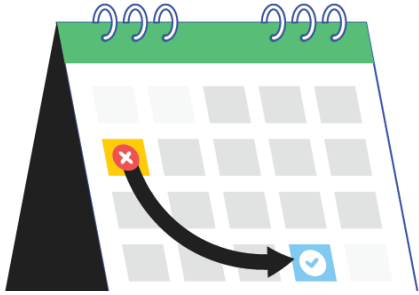
### **What will Happen at Court?**



You will go to the Magistrate Court.

This is the type of court you get **DVOs** from.

You will have 3 choices –



## 1. Adjourn

This means you want to come back to court another day.

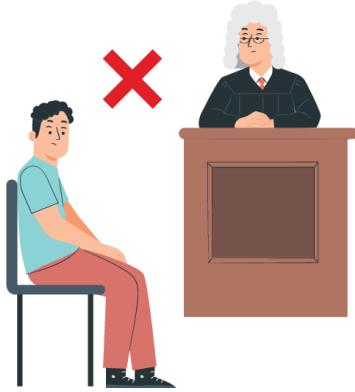
You will make the decision when you come back to court.



## 2. Consent without Admissions

This means you say **yes** to the **DVO**.

You do **not** agree that they did what the **DVO** says.



### 3. Contest

This means you say **no** to the **DVO**.

It means you want to do a **hearing**.

### Hearing

A **hearing** is at court.



You and the **aggrieved** will need to show **evidence**.

**Evidence** is used as proof that what you are saying is true.



## Your Rights at Court



**Rights** are rules to make sure everyone gets what is fair and is safe



You have the **right** to understand what's happening.

You can ask for things to be said in a different way.

You can ask for more information.



You have the **right** to the support you need.

You can bring 1 support person with you to court.

This could be –



- your support worker



- a family member



- a friend.



Please tell the court workers if you want to bring a support person into the courtroom with you.



The court workers can help you on the day.

You can ask them questions.

A duty lawyer can also help at court.

They help for free.



They can –

- speak for you to the judge
- go into the court without you if want them to



## Court tips



Wear smart casual clothing.

Do **not** wear thongs or singlets.



Do **not** wear a hat or sunglasses when you are in the courtroom.



Turn your phone off or put it on silent.

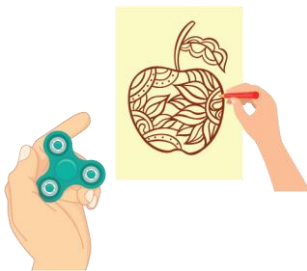


When you talk to the judge, call them  
'Your Honour'.

Stand up when you speak to the judge.



You might have to wait for a while  
before you go into the courtroom.



You can bring something to keep you  
calm while you wait.