



# Interim Family Violence Order - Respondent

ACT Courts and Tribunal

Easy English



## **In this book**

Hard words .....	3
You can get help with this book .....	3
About this book.....	4
Why were you given these documents? .....	6
What happens next?.....	7
What do I need to know about coming to Court? .....	8
What will happen when I come to Court?.....	12
What will happen if you don't agree with the other person? .....	13
Where can you get help?.....	16



## Hard words

This book has some hard words

The first time we write a hard word

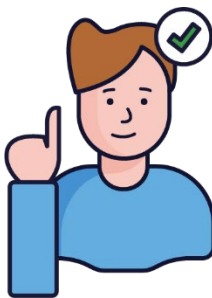
- the word is in **blue**
- we write what the hard word means



## You can get help with this book

You can get someone to help you

- read this book



- know what this book is about



- find more information



## About this book

This book is for you because the Court has made an **interim protection order** against you



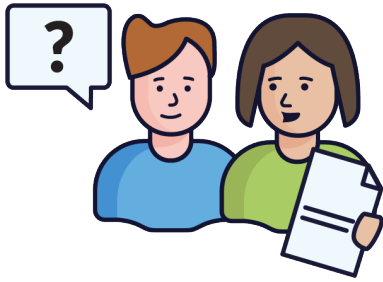
An interim protection order stops you from doing some things for a short time



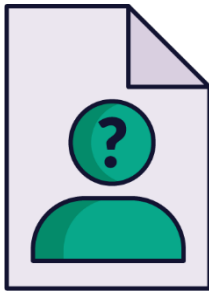
When you were given the interim protection order, you were given some other documents



You need to understand what all of those documents say



You can ask someone to help you to read those documents



The documents tell you who is protected by the order



The documents tell you what you cannot do



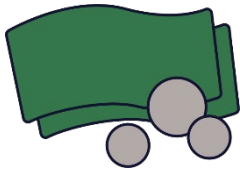
If you do any of the things the documents say you cannot do, you will be breaking the law



If you do any of those things you could go to jail



If you do any of those things you could get a **fine**



A fine is money you have to pay for doing something you are not supposed to



**Why were you given these documents?**

Someone you know asked a **Deputy Registrar** for help to be protected from you



A Deputy Registrar is a Court officer who is good at helping people to keep safe



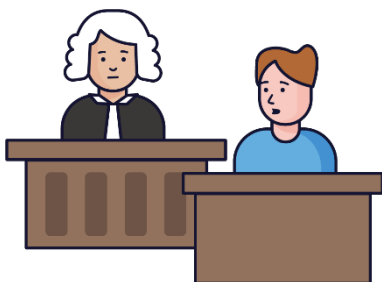
The Deputy Registrar agreed the person you know needs help to keep safe



The Deputy Registrar made the interim protection order to help keep them safe

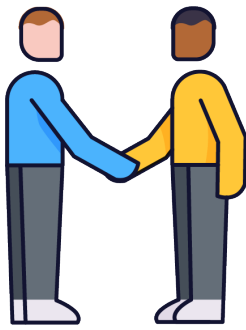


If you want to change the protection order, you need to ask the Court to change it

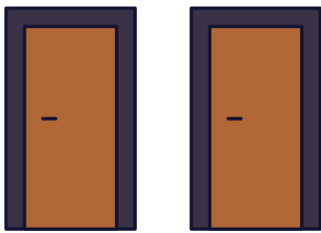


### What happens next?

You need to come to court for a **preliminary conference**



A preliminary conference is where you try to agree something with the other person



You won't be in the same room as the other person at the preliminary conference

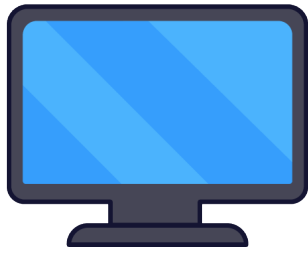


## What do I need to know about coming to Court?

There are people at the Court who are there to help keep you safe



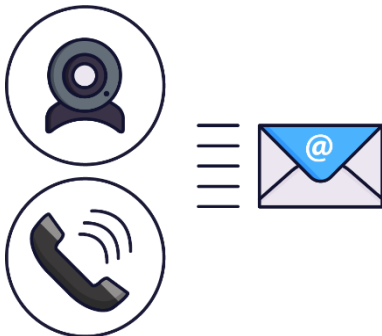
If you don't feel safe, you can apply to appear from a **remote witness room**



A remote witness room is a different room to the Court room. In the different room you can see and hear what people are saying on the TV

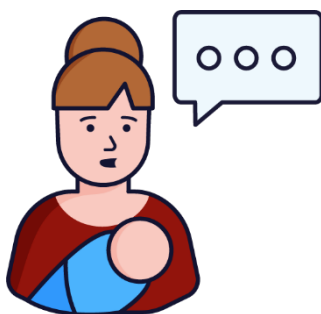


If you don't feel safe coming to Court, you can apply to appear in Court by phone, or by a video call using a computer



If you want to appear from a remote witness room, by phone or video call, you can email – [courtassistance@courts.act.gov.au](mailto:courtassistance@courts.act.gov.au)

or phone –  
**02 6205 0322**



If you have a child, you need to ask someone else to look after them when you come to Court



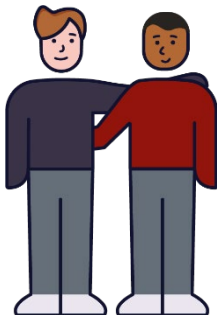
You may need to wait when you come to Court. Make sure you can be there for hours



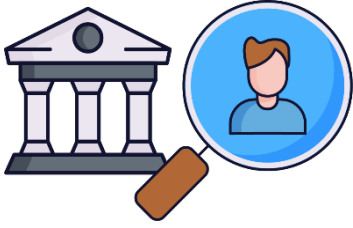
You should get **legal advice** before coming to court



Legal advice is a lawyer telling you what you need to know about going to Court



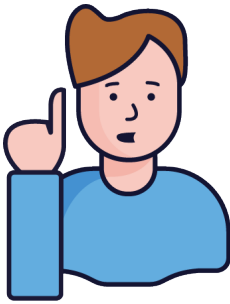
You can bring someone to help you



If you don't have someone to help you, Court can help to find someone to help you



You can call Court to ask for help on the following phone number –  
**02 6205 0322**



If you can't come to Court for any reason, you must tell the Court



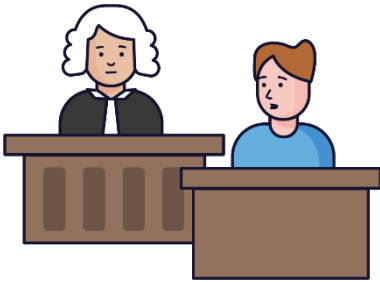
If you can't come to Court, you will need to **prove** why you couldn't come



You can prove why you couldn't come with a sick certificate from a doctor



You can call Court to tell them that you can't come on the following phone number –  
**02 6205 0322**



## **What will happen when I come to Court?**

When you come to Court, the following things may happen



- A Court officer may help you agree something with the other person



- If you agree something with the other person, it will be written down



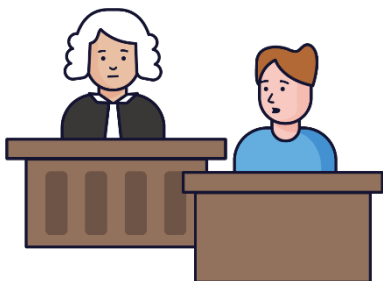
- You might agree to a **final protection order**



A final protection order is like an interim protection order, but it lasts for longer



If you do not come to Court, the Court may make a final protection order without you there



**What will happen if you don't agree with the other person?**

If you and the other person can't agree you will need to have a **hearing**



A hearing is what happens in the Court



At the hearing a **Magistrate** decides if a final protection order is needed



A Magistrate is a Court officer who is good at helping people to keep safe



If you need a hearing, the Court officer at the preliminary conference may help by



- Making a date for your matter to go to a hearing



## Where can you get help?

You may be able to get help with going to Court from people who work at these places



### **ACT Disability, Aged and Carer Advocacy Services (ADACAS)**

Call 02 6242 5060



### **Advocacy for Inclusion (AFI)**

Call 02 6257 4005



### **Legal Aid ACT**

Call 02 6207 1874



### **The ACT Law Society**

Call 02 6274 0300



### **The Women's Legal Centre**

Call 02 6257 4377



**The Domestic Violence Crisis Service**

Call 02 6280 0900



**The Victims of Crime Commissioner**

Call 02 6205 2222