



After-hours family violence orders

Family Violence Orders

Family Violence Orders are made by the Court to protect a person from family violence.

A person applying for a family violence order is called 'the applicant'. The police, a parent or litigation guardian may apply for a protection order for another person.

To apply for a Family Violence Order, complete an application form and lodge it with the ACT Magistrates Court during business hours Monday to Friday 9am to 4:30pm.

After-hours Orders

If **immediate** and **urgent** protection is needed outside of regular business hours, the Police can bring an application for an **After-Hours Order**. A person seeking protection outside of regular business hours should contact police by telephone on 000 for urgent matters or 131 444 for non-urgent police assistance.

A judicial officer can make an After-Hours Order if there is a risk of:

- violence to a person, and the order is immediately necessary to ensure the person's safety
- substantial damage to a person's property.

An After-Hours Order can provide the person with protection, allowing them time to attend the ACT Magistrates Court to make a formal application for a Family Violence Order if they so

wish. An After-Hours Order is only in effect for a maximum of **two business days after the day the order is made**.

What is family violence?

Family violence is behaviour by a person to a family member that may include:

- Physical violence or abuse
- Sexual violence or abuse
- Emotional or psychological abuse
- Economic abuse
- Threatening behaviour
- Coercion, or any other behaviour that:
 - controls or dominates the family member
 - causes the family member to feel fear for the safety or wellbeing of the family member or another person
- Behaviour that causes a child to hear, witness or otherwise be exposed to any of the behaviour mentioned above, or the effects of the behaviour.

A family member is a person who is:

- a domestic partner or former domestic partner of the person
- an intimate partner or former intimate partner of the person
- a relative of the person
- a child of a domestic partner or former domestic partner
- a parent of a child of the person.



Help and Support

If you need help or advice, you can contact:

ACT Police

If you need urgent assistance or your safety is at immediate risk, call the Police on **000** for urgent matters or 131 444 for non-urgent police assistance. The Police may apply for an After-Hours Order on your behalf. The City Police station is located at 16-18 London Circuit, Canberra ACT 2601 (see map below).

Domestic Violence Crisis Service:

For information about domestic violence services or emergency accommodation visit www.dvcs.org.au.
The DVCS 24 hours crisis line is **(02) 6280 0900**.

Legal Aid ACT

For legal advice, contact Legal Aid on (02) 6207 1874 or 1300 654 314. The Legal Aid Domestic Violence and Personal Protection Orders Unit is located within the Magistrates Court. The main office is located at 2 Allsop Street, Canberra ACT 2601.

Women's Legal Centre ACT

For legal advice, contact the Women's Legal Centre ACT on (02) 6257 4377.

ACT Magistrates Court

The ACT Magistrates Court is located at 4-6 Knowles Place, Canberra ACT 2601 (see map below).
Visit the website for information and access to forms:
courts.act.gov.au/magistrates/protection
For other questions, contact the protection unit by phone on (02) 6205 4939 or email: protection@courts.act.gov.au

