

WHAT HAPPENS IF CHILD SAFETY SERVICES (SFSK) ARE NOTIFIED?

If Police or a service provider contact Safe Families Safe Kids (SFSK) about your family they will record this notification and assess the information to determine whether children are at risk of harm.

Child Safety and Wellbeing Workers can intervene if they feel they are able to improve the safety of children and young people (under the age of 18).

They aim to work supportively and collaboratively with families in a strengths-based approach to find ways to ensure the wellbeing of children and young people.

If you are concerned about your children's safety, you can contact the Child Safety Service 1800 000 123 yourself and ask for help.

WHAT IF YOU ARE IDENTIFIED AS AN UNSAFE PERSON?

Sometimes when service providers do not have a family violence lens they may not understand how a victim-survivor can respond to on-going abuse and violence.

If the Police or Child Safety Service determines that you are a risk to your children's safety or a risk to your partner or ex-partner, it is important to get support.

Specialist services can help you to understand your rights and advocate for and with you. They can help you to challenge a decision or make a complaint.

SUPPORT SERVICES

Specialist family and sexual violence services can support you through the system response and help understand your options.



Family Violence Counselling and Support Service (State-wide)
1800 608 122



1800RESPECT (24/7)
1800 737 732



Engender Equality: State-wide family violence counselling and support:
03 6278 9090



Women's Legal Service Tasmania
03 6231 9466



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Equality

The information in this brochure is based on law and policy in Tasmania as at June 2025. It is not intended to be legal advice. If you have any legal concerns, please contact a lawyer or one of the free legal services listed above.

Making the Call

The police, the law,
your rights,
and what to expect if
you are experiencing
family violence.



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Equality

Engender Equality is supported by the Crown through the Department of Premier and Cabinet.

WHAT IS FAMILY VIOLENCE?

If your partner or ex-partner is making you feel confused, alone, frightened, depressed, worthless, trapped or powerless, you are probably experiencing family violence.

In Tasmania, family violence is defined as intimate partner violence from a partner or ex-partner.

You deserve to feel safe, and to be free from abuse and violence.

WHAT CAN YOU DO?



Listen to yourself

You know your partner or ex-partner better than anyone else. Trust yourself to know what feels right or not right.



Talk to someone

You don't need to go through this alone. Think about the people you can trust enough to talk to or ask for help, even if you choose not to tell them everything.



Reach out to services.

There are free services that can help you with information, counselling, advocacy, legal advice, and other support to stay safe, explore your options, and deal with the emotional impacts of family violence.



Make a plan to stay safe.

Deciding ahead of time what you'll do if things become unsafe can make it easier to take action when you're scared or in danger. You can do safety and escape planning checklists with specialist services.

WHAT ARE FAMILY VIOLENCE ORDERS?

Family Violence Orders (FVOs) and Police Family Violence Orders (PFVOs) prohibit alleged offenders from threatening, abusing or assaulting a victim-survivor of family violence.

FVOs are issued by the magistrate's court via an application. PFVOs are issued by the police in response to a "family violence incident".

Depending on your situation, an order may or may not include other restrictions, such as limited contact.

Breaching an order is an offence that can result in criminal penalties for the victim-survivor (and the perpetrator) even if you have been coerced into breaching the order.

HOW DO I APPLY FOR A FAMILY VIOLENCE ORDER?

You can apply for a Family Violence Order (FVO), or apply to change an existing order.

You can apply for an FVO through the Magistrates Court of Tasmania, without involving police. You may also apply through the Court to vary, extend, or revoke an existing FVO or Police Family Violence Order (PFVO).

For help with this or other legal issues, contact a lawyer or a free legal service such as Legal Aid Tasmania 1300 366 611 or Women's Legal Service Tasmania 6231 9466.



Call the police, if you or your children are in immediate danger, dial triple zero (000) and ask for the police.

HOW ARE POLICE FAMILY VIOLENCE ORDERS ISSUED?

Police Family Violence Orders (PFVOs) can be issued by authorised police officers in response to a "family violence incident". They can be issued for up to 12 months. Applications can be made to court to have the PFVO revoked.

If Tasmania Police suspect family violence is being, has been, or is likely to be committed, they can take action, even if you don't want them to. Tasmania Police adopt a pro-intervention approach to family violence.

WHAT ELSE CAN THE POLICE DO?

- Conduct risk screenings, safety audits, or forensic examinations.
- Provide support from the Family Violence Unit (FVU), which has specialised training in family violence.
- Enter and search your home to thoroughly investigate alleged family violence incidents, and make arrests if that is assessed as appropriate.
- Determine your location (if you call 000 from a landline) and send police or other services to you.
- Make a notification to Child Safety Services, if there are children in the relationship or to previous relationships, even if the violence was not directed at the children, or they were not present at the time the violence occurred.
- Take action on issues unrelated to the family violence, such as drug use, stolen property, visa status, traffic infringements or warrants.