

# Sydney Women's Domestic Violence Court Advocacy Service

## Who is this service for?

This service is available to women and their children who need support during the process of Apprehended Domestic Violence Order (ADVO) proceedings. Trans women, sisters/girls and non-binary people are all eligible for this service.

This service assists women who will have their ADVO matter heard at [Downing Centre](#), [Newtown](#) or [Waverley](#) local courts.

## How can this service support clients?

Sydney WDV CAS provides information, assistance and court advocacy services to women during the process of Apprehended Domestic Violence Order (ADVO) proceedings.

Our support workers will help women through the process of taking out an Apprehended Violence Order (AVO) for domestic violence matters. Our workers make sure that women have all the information they need and experience as little stress as possible during the court and AVO process. We help women achieve the most successful and appropriate outcome for their case.

We can provide clients with support before they appear in court for an ADVO matter, including:

1. Information about the court process, ADVO conditions and any other relevant matters.
2. Practical information such as how to find the court, where to go once a client arrives at court etc.
3. A DFV Specialist Worker to liaise with Police, Solicitors, Court Staff and other support workers on the client's behalf.
4. A DFV Specialist Worker advocate on a client's behalf.
5. Referring clients to appropriate services.

## Can this service provide legal advice?

**No**, this is a support service. Our staff are very experienced in this area but are not solicitors and do not give legal advice or legal assistance.

If you require legal advice, you will be referred to a duty solicitor.

## Where and when is this service available?

Support workers from the Sydney WDV CAS program attend 3 local courts on AVO list days:

Newtown Local Court	Downing Centre Local Court	Waverley Local Court
Mondays	Wednesdays	Thursdays



## What services does this service provide once the client is at court?

1. **A safe room** – a private room where women seeking an AVO can wait for their case to be heard
2. **Information** – support workers explain the AVO process and any related issues to make sure women fully understand their situation and feel confident about the orders they are seeking
3. **Advocacy** – support workers talk to Police, Police Prosecutors, court staff and solicitors to make sure each woman's wishes are put forward and each case receives the best attention
4. **Referrals** to:
  - a. Duty Solicitor (family law advice, assistance for female defendants without charges, private AVO applications)
  - b. Police
  - c. Other support agencies eg. counselling, casework services, refuges, victim's compensation applications, Centrelink, Co-ordinated Family Dispute Resolution

## Is this an inclusive service?

South West Sydney WDVCS has an **Aboriginal Specialist Worker** and a **Culturally and Linguistically Diverse (CALD) Specialist Worker**.

## How to access support from this service:

If your ADVO matter will be heard in the Fairfield, Liverpool or Bankstown Local Court, then please call or email us as soon as possible for support. That way, support workers have more time to help you.

**Phone:** (02) 9287 7505

**Fax:** (02) 9287 7813

**Email:** [slcp@justicesupportcentre.org.au](mailto:slcp@justicesupportcentre.org.au)

Open hours: Mon-Fri, 8.30am-5pm

**If you need an interpreter**, call us using the free Translating and Interpreting Service on 131 450.

**If you are not sure in which court your AVO matter will be heard**, contact the Police Officer who assisted you or the Domestic Violence Liaison Officer in the same Police Station. In many cases Police refer female domestic violence victims directly to us. If this happens, we will call you before your court date and ask you if you want our help.

