

What is a Voluntary Intervention Order?

A Voluntary Intervention Order is an order that can be made by the court requiring a respondent to attend an approved behavioural change program.

A Voluntary Intervention Order is made at the time a Protection Order or Temporary Protection Order is made by the court.

Either the respondent or the court can initiate attendance at a Voluntary Intervention Program.

Under the order the respondent will be required to attend counselling or a program to help them work through the issues that have led to domestic violence and they will be assisted in the change process.

The respondent must be in court when the decision is made to attend a Voluntary Intervention Program and must:

- ◆ Agree to the Voluntary Intervention Order
- ◆ Agree to comply with the order
- ◆ Know of an approved service provider such as NQDVRs, who can assist.
- ◆ If the respondent agrees the Court will explain about the purpose of the order, what happens if you do not comply (breaches) and how you can vary or revoke the order.

Other Contacts

Mensline	1300 789 978
Offers confidential counseling, referral & support	
Men's Info line	1800 600 636
Life Line	131 114
Relationships Australia	1300 364 277
Centacare	07 4772 9000

NQDVRs

- ◆ Information and referral
- ◆ AARDVARC program for children
- ◆ Resources
- ◆ Court Support
- ◆ Choosing Safety Upgrades program
- ◆ Men's Behaviour Change Program
- ◆ SAFE Dads Program
- ◆ Community education & Training

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Against Violence #40



VOLUNTARY INTERVENTION ORDERS (V.I.O.)



WITH COMMITMENT YOU CAN LIVE A LIFE FREE FROM DOMESTIC VIOLENCE

NQDVRs
Funded by



Voluntary Intervention Programs

The Domestic & Family Violence Act 2012 came into effect on 17 September 2012. Under the new legislation the court can order a respondent to participate in counselling or an approved intervention program. A respondent can also volunteer for a program if they wish to make changes in their life.

STEP 1. Assessment

To commence participation in a program all you need to do is to make an initial appointment.

During the appointment we will explain to you about how you can attend and participate in the program.

If you have a disability, psychiatric or psychological condition or drug and alcohol problems we will take this into consideration.

Also if you have any other issues that may impact on your ability to participate these will be discussed with you.

Who Can Participate?

If you wish to participate we will assist you with this process.

STEP 2. How will the Program Work?

The program will be available over an 8 week period. There are 16 sessions. The program is usually run at night for convenience of participants and each session runs for approximately 2 1/2 hours.

What can I expect?

- ⇒ A challenge to seek new ideas to remove violence from your life.
- ⇒ Skills and tools about how you can change your violent behaviour.
- ⇒ A challenge to understand you can only change yourself, not other people.
- ⇒ An understanding of the effects of domestic and family violence.
- ⇒ Support for you to gain confidence and the appropriate skills required to change your behaviour.



What about the aggrieved?

The aggrieved receives a copy of the Voluntary Intervention Order. (V.I.O.)

She will be asked for permission to be contacted by a Women's Advocate to ensure she is safe.

Reports & Confidentiality

Reports will have to be provided to the Court and Police but limited confidentiality will be maintained when disclosing in the program.

What if you are unable to meet the requirements to attend the program for the Voluntary Intervention Order?

- ⇒ The approved provider will notify the court and you will not be required to comply with the Voluntary Intervention Order.
- ⇒ You must still comply with the domestic violence order.

What happens if you are suitable but cannot attend or complete the program required by the Voluntary Intervention Order?

- ⇒ The approved provider must advise the court that you have been unable to participate.
- ⇒ The approved provider must keep a record of whether you complete the program and advise the court.
- ⇒ The Court will be aware of your failure to do the program in the future if any further violence occurs.

What happens if you do complete the program?

- ⇒ The Court and the Police will be advised of your attendance, participation and completion of the program.