

GETTING READY FOR AN INTERIM FVRO HEARING

This fact sheet has information to help you get ready for your interim family violence restraining order (FVRO) hearing.

Check when your application will be on at court

At some courts, you may be able to get a first hearing (the interim hearing) on the same day you put in your application at the court.

Before you put in your application, you should check with the court to find out if your interim application will be heard on the same day, or on another day.



If it will be heard on the same day, there are steps you can take to prepare for the first hearing.

If you have been given permission to appear at the first hearing by telephone you need to make sure that your phone is fully charged, you are in an area of good reception and that you have privacy. The call from the court might come through on a private number and if miss the call the magistrate could cancel your application.

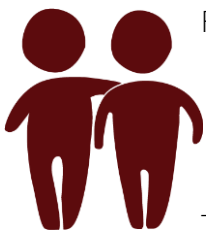
Sometimes the court will want the respondent to come to court too. If the court wants this, they will order a summons for the respondent to come to court and the case will be put off to another day.

Go over why you want an FVRO

Check your notes and what you put in your court paperwork about why you want an FVRO. Bring your notes to court.

Think about what protections you might need to make you feel safer. For example, do you want to stop the respondent from talking about you on social media? If you need this to stop it is important that there is evidence of this already happening, or that it could be something that the respondent would do.

Bring a support person



FVRO applications are heard in closed court. This means the public are not allowed to come into the courtroom. You are allowed to bring people with you for support (as well as a lawyer if you have one). Your support people have to be approved by the court and are not allowed to be witnesses in the case.



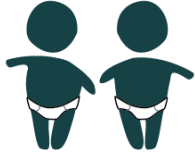
Try to find a support person who isn't too closely connected to what has happened. The family violence support service at court, or your local community legal centre, may be able to help you find someone to support you during your interim FVRO hearing.

GETTING READY FOR AN INTERIM FVRO HEARING

Sort out child care and parking



You might have to organise someone to look after your kids when you come to court. Some magistrates don't let kids come into the courtroom and courts do not have child care facilities.



You should be prepared to be at court for much of the day, even if you filed your application early in the morning. It is best if you don't have to leave the court to move your car or buy more time for parking.

If you do need to leave the court for any reason, make sure that you tell the court orderly. If you don't tell them, and your matter is heard when you are not there, your application might be cancelled. You would then need to make your application again.

Arrange an interpreter



Usually, you need to put in your FVRO application with the court and ask for an interpreter on same the day. The court will contact an interpreter service and only list your application for a first hearing once an interpreter is confirmed. This can sometimes delay your first hearing to the next day. The interpreter will be available on your court date and will help you in court.

Hints for the day

- » Dress neatly. You will not be allowed into court in a singlet. You should make sure that you are not wearing anything that the court might think is not good for court such as a t-shirt with offensive words on it.
- » Try to get to the court early.
- » Be on time if you cannot be early.
- » Bring all your paperwork with you set out in a way you are easily to find things, for example, in a folder divided under different headings.

