

STEPS YOU MIGHT TAKE AFTER YOU GET AN INTERIM FVRO

This fact sheet has information about steps you might take after you get an interim family violence restraining order (FVRO) to get the most out of the order.

Steps you might take to be safer

A family violence restraining order (FVRO) is one tool that might help keep you safe from family violence. Once you have an interim FVRO from the court, there are things you might do to make the best use of the order to make you and your family safer.

The first step is to read the order carefully so that you know exactly what is covered and what any exceptions are. Speak to a lawyer if you are not sure what it means.

There are other simple actions you can take, such as:

- ◆ making copies of the order to put in a safe place or take with you,
- ◆ telling people you trust that you have an interim FVRO, and
- ◆ reporting anything you think that the respondent does that breaks the rules to the police to have the order enforced.

Remember: your interim FVRO only starts once the police have served the respondent.



Things you can do

- ◆ Once you get the FVRO, make copies.
- ◆ Keep a copy with you all the time.
- ◆ Keep a copy in your handbag.
- ◆ If you are staying at a refuge, give the refuge a copy.
- ◆ If it covers your kids, tell the school and give it a copy.
- ◆ If you feel comfortable, tell friends, family members, and the people you work with about the order.



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Enforce it – What to do if an FVRO is not followed

You should report any breaches (or suspected breaches) of your order to the police. If you need emergency help, call 000.

Keep a diary of anything the respondent does that you think breaks the rules of the order. This is called 'breaching' the FVRO. Report these things to the police.

Keep any evidence of breaches if you can, for example, copies of text messages.



Get ready for the next step in your case



Speak to a lawyer if you are not sure what happens next.

Legal Aid WA has a Domestic Violence Legal Unit that provides legal advice and assistance about family violence issues.

If the respondent objects to you getting a final FVRO, and both you and the respondent agree, your case may go to a conference if these are available at your court. For information on conferences see the fact sheet **FVRO conferences - applicant**.

If your case is not able to go to a conference, it will be put off for a final order hearing where a magistrate will decide about whether your interim FVRO should be made a final FVRO.

For a final order hearing, you might apply for legal aid to have a lawyer speak for you in court. You should do this as soon as you know your case is going to a final order hearing. You can also pay for a private lawyer to represent you.

If you need an interpreter you should contact the court before the final order hearing date to make sure an interpreter is booked for the day.

Contact the **Legal Aid WA Infoline** on 1300 650 579 or **Legal Yarn** (for First Nations callers) on 1800 319 803 or contact your nearest Legal Aid WA office for more information or referral to services that may be able to help you. The [Legal Aid WA website](https://www.legalaid.wa.gov.au) also has more information.

