

***The respondent is not to follow; or approach; or approach to within (a distance will be entered here) metres of the aggrieved***

This condition means that you are not to try to follow the aggrieved or any person named in the protection order. If there is a distance entered you should stay that distance from the aggrieved. There may also be exceptions for access to children included in this condition.

There may be other conditions included in the order and exceptions can be made for access to your child/ren.

**Domestic Violence is about  
Power and control**

**For further information  
regarding Protection Orders,  
please contact North Queensland  
Domestic Violence Resource  
Service or your local Police  
Station.**

Mensline Australia  
1300 789 978

Qld DV Connect Mensline  
1800 600 636

Lifeline  
13 1114

DV Connect  
1800 811 811

Townsville Magistrates Court Counter  
4761 8338

Townsville Police  
47 599777

Women's Centre  
4775 7555

#### **NQDVRS**

**Funded by the Department of  
Communities**

- **Information and referral**
- **Aardvarc program for children**
- **Community education & training**
- **Resources**
- **Court Support**
- **Men's Behavioral Change Program**

#### **TOWNSVILLE OFFICE**

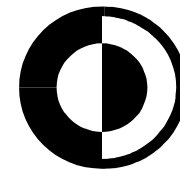
Phone: 07 4721 2888 Fax: 07 4721 1794  
4<sup>th</sup> floor, Northtown Tower. 280 Flinders Street,  
The Flinders Street Mall (above the City Library)

#### **MOUNT ISA OFFICE**

Phone: 07 4743 0946 Fax: 07 4743 7999  
The Old Court House Building, Isa Street  
<http://www.nqdvrs.org.au>

**Against Violence #27**

# **INFORMATION FOR RESPONDENTS INVOLVED WITH DOMESTIC VIOLENCE PROTECTION ORDERS**



**North Queensland Domestic Violence  
Resource Service**

## Domestic Violence is a Crime

A Domestic Violence Protection Order is an order made by a Magistrate that restricts the way that a person can behave towards another person. The behaviour restricted can include: Wilful injury, wilful damage to property, intimidation, harassment, indecent behaviour without consent, stalking and threats to commit these acts.

Any action, which you use to control or punish the other person's thoughts, feelings or actions negatively, is domestic violence. The purpose of the Protection Order is to stop domestic violence.

## Protection Orders

The Protection Order is designed to prevent further violence and abuse from occurring. It does this by restricting the behaviour of the abusive person.

A court may make a Protection Order if it is satisfied that an act of domestic violence was committed and is likely to occur again. The order is made against the person committing the domestic violence (the respondent).

A Protection Order takes effect when the Respondent person has been served with a copy of the order. The order remains in force for the period set out on the order, which can be for up to two years. A court can review the order for a further period.

Note: Protection Orders are a civil matter. It is not a criminal charge.

However, Protection Orders are legally binding and if you breach the Order, the matter becomes a criminal offence. You commit a breach by not complying with the conditions stated in the Order.

## Conditions in the order

When you are served with a copy of the protection order the conditions should be explained to you. You need to tell the person serving you if you do not understand any of the conditions. You will be asked to sign the order to say that you understand the conditions.

**The onus is on the respondent to obey the conditions in the order. If the aggrieved contacts, invites or approaches you, you are responsible to ensure that you comply with the conditions in the order. If there is an incident and the police are called, you may be charged with a breach of the protection order.**

*The respondent person must be of good behaviour towards the aggrieved and not commit domestic violence*

This means that you are not to physically or verbally abuse the other person, intimidate or harass them, harm their property in any way or threaten to do any of the above.

*The respondent person must be of good behaviour towards any named person in this order and not commit an act of associated domestic violence against the named person*

Note the names that are included in the order, you are not to hurt harass or intimidate these people (this may include children, relatives, friends, etc).

Other conditions that may be included:

*The respondent is not to go to, enter or remain in any place where the aggrieved listed in this order is living or staying or working*

This condition means that you are not to go to the aggrieved person's house or work, you are not to enter their house or work and you are not to remain at their house or work.

This may also cover a place where the aggrieved person is staying, (a friend's place or at their parent's house) because this is considered as where they are residing.

*The respondent is not to contact, try to contact or ask someone else to contact the aggrieved, directly or indirectly (by telephone or any other means of communication).*

This condition means that you are not to telephone, write or pass messages to the aggrieved person. **No contact means no contact.** If you are in a public place you should not approach the aggrieved. **Be aware of the definitions of Domestic Violence that are printed on the top of the Protection Order.**