

COURT SUPPORT *and* LIAISON SERVICES

A Service for Adult and Child
Victims of Family Violence

A Safe at Home Program



Aboriginal Court Support Officer

A dedicated Aboriginal Court Support Officer will be available to provide support to Aboriginal adult and child victims of family violence (including referral to appropriate counselling and other services) and guide them through the justice system before, during and after Court appearances.

As a member of the Aboriginal community the Aboriginal Court Support Officer understands the unique needs of the community and also acknowledges your right to privacy within the community.

Aboriginal Court Support Officer:

Phone: (03) 6233 5227 or

1300 663 773 (toll free)

Our services are free.

CONTACT DETAILS

Your rights as an individual are respected.

Please call us if we can be of assistance.

Court Support and Liaison Services
Victims Support Services
Department of Justice

Phone: 1300 663 773 (toll free)

or

Hobart: (03) 6233 5005

Launceston: (03) 6336 2128

Burnie: (03) 6434 7268

Email: court.support@justice.tas.gov.au

www.justice.tas.gov.au/victims

A Safe at Home Program



Dedicated Court Support Officers are available statewide to provide support to adult and child victims of family violence.

Support is available for male and female victims regardless of age or cultural background.

The Service can also independently prepare children and young people to give evidence in court and help to minimise the trauma for a child in an adult legal system.

The Service supports child witnesses to give their evidence in court to the best of their ability.

The Court Support Officer can also provide the following assistance:

- How to take out a Family Violence Order
- How to vary or extend an existing Order
- Advise on legal processes
- Provide ongoing updates on the progress of a matter.

Further assistance can be provided by the Court Support Officers as matters proceed through the court process:

Before Court

- Court tour to explain the court layout and facilities
- Explain the roles of people in the Court (e.g. Judge, Magistrate, Jury, Prosecutor, Defence Lawyer, Court Support)
- Explain words and language that may be used in Court
- Assist victims to understand their role as a witness
- Assist witnesses to feel as comfortable as possible within the Court environment, and to address their fears and concerns
- Liaise with Police and Prosecutors on behalf of the victim.

At Court

- Accompany the adult or child victim to Court
- Stay with witnesses while they are waiting to give evidence and when giving their evidence
- Provide support to victims throughout the Court process.

After Court

- Talk about what happened at Court and the impact of Magistrate/Judge's decision
- Follow up through referral to other services.