

Who can apply?

You can apply if you are feeling unsafe in your relationship, or if you are concerned about the safety of someone you know.

The application will ask you to confirm:

- the person at risk lives in SA, and is aged 17 years or older
- the person at risk is in an intimate relationship, or was previously in a relationship where there is still contact between the two people. It may or may not involve a sexual relationship and may be between people of the same or different sex
- there are safety concerns based on some behaviour displayed by the partner or information that has been discovered about them.

Concerns can be related to physical, verbal or controlling behaviours, emotional or psychological manipulation, or economic or social abuse or isolation.

Where else can I get help?

The DVDS is an early intervention and prevention initiative. It is not an emergency response service.

If you are in an emergency, life-threatening situation, call **Triple Zero (000)**.

For other police assistance or attendance, call **131 444**.

For advice and information relating to domestic violence or other safety concerns contact:

Women's Information Service: **08 8303 0961**

1800RESPECT National 24/7 Helpline: **1800 737 732**

Domestic Violence Crisis Line: **1800 800 098**

Men's Referral Service: **1300 766 491**

Child Abuse Report Line: **131 478**

Lifeline (24-hour crisis line): **131 114**

Relationships Australia: **1300 364 277**

Kids Help Line: **1800 551 800**

For more information about the DVDS, or to make an application visit www.police.sa.gov.au/your-safety/dvds

The DVDS is a state-wide initiative of SA Police, the Office for Women and Women's Safety Services SA.

South Australia's Domestic Violence Disclosure Scheme

Help for people concerned about
safety in a relationship

www.police.sa.gov.au/your-safety/dvds



SOUTH AUSTRALIA POLICE
SAFER COMMUNITIES



**Government
of South Australia**

What is the Domestic Violence Disclosure Scheme (DVDS)?

If you are feeling unsafe in your relationship, and are concerned that your partner or former partner may have a history of violence, you may be able to request some information from the police about them through the DVDS.

If you are concerned about the welfare of someone you know who is in a relationship that looks like it is unsafe, you may be able to request information be provided to that person through the DVDS.

Information on the partner's police history is provided via the DVDS to the person at risk so they can make informed decisions about their safety and the future of the relationship.

How is the application assessed?

Police assess the application, check what information is held about the person causing concern and decide what information can be released to the person at risk.

A meeting is then arranged between the person at risk, police and a specialist domestic and family violence worker.

The process will generally be completed within 14 working days.

How is the information given?

Police and a specialist domestic and family violence worker will meet with the person at risk in a safe place to provide the information verbally. The person at risk may take a support person with them to the meeting.

The specialist worker will provide support, access to services and help plan for the ongoing safety of the person at risk and their children.

Who is given the information?

Only the person at risk (and their support person) is given the information during the meeting.

A person who makes an application about someone else will be advised of the progress of the application, but no information will be released directly to them.

No information about the application or the disclosure is given to the person causing concern.

What is disclosed?

Information held by SA Police which may be disclosed includes:

- convictions for relevant offences committed in SA
- relevant reports and charges for offences
- current and historical intervention orders
- other information which may be applicable to the safety of the person at risk.

Information held by interstate police which may be disclosed, where available includes:

- convictions for relevant offences committed interstate
- current and historical domestic violence orders.

How do I apply?

A DVDS application can be made to SA Police using the online form available at www.police.sa.gov.au/your-safety/dvds

If you need assistance to complete the form, seek help from your local police station.