



# NATIONAL ENFORCEMENT

OF DOMESTIC VIOLENCE ORDERS

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THE NATIONAL DOMESTIC  
VIOLENCE ORDER SCHEME  
HAS BEEN INTRODUCED

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WE CAN NOW BETTER  
PROTECT AUSTRALIANS  
[www.ag.gov.au/ndvos](http://www.ag.gov.au/ndvos)



# BACKGROUND

Family and domestic violence is unacceptable. Victim safety is vital.

New laws have been introduced nationwide to improve the protection of domestic violence victims.

In the past, domestic violence orders (DVOs) only applied in the state or territory in which they were issued or registered.

That has now changed.

On 25 November 2017, the National Domestic Violence Order Scheme commenced. All DVOs issued from 25 November 2017 are now automatically nationally recognised and enforceable.

# PROTECTING VICTIMS

The National Domestic Violence Order Scheme strengthens protections for victims and their families.

You no longer need to apply to register your DVO in another state or territory of Australia for it to be enforceable.

If you have a current DVO that was issued prior to 25 November 2017 it can become nationally recognised by applying to a court.

Local courts across Australia can amend a nationally recognised DVO regardless of where it was issued.

Local police will still enforce the conditions of all DVOs issued in their state or territory, regardless of when they were issued.

Existing state and territory laws protecting victims and affected family members from domestic violence have not changed.



# ENFORCING DVOs

It is a criminal offence if you do not comply with the conditions of a DVO.

A DVO is no longer restricted by state or territory borders. All DVOs issued apply throughout all of Australia.

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IN YOUR STATE OR TERRITORY A DVO MAY BE CALLED AN INTERVENTION ORDER, FAMILY VIOLENCE ORDER, APPREHENDED DOMESTIC VIOLENCE ORDER OR PROTECTION ORDER.

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# WHAT DO I NEED TO DO?

## **For DVOs issued prior to 25th November 2017:**

You can choose to have your DVO declared at any time to ensure you are protected nationwide.



You can do this by applying to any local court in Australia. It does not have to be a court in the state or territory where your order was issued.

If you are not intending to travel to or reside within another state or territory of Australia you may choose not to declare your order. You will remain protected in the state or territory in which the DVO was issued.

## **For DVOs issued on or after 25th November 2017:**

Your DVO is automatically nationally recognised and it is not necessary for you to take any further action.



# FURTHER INFORMATION

If you are unsure whether you need to take any action, or if you have further questions, visit **[www.ag.gov.au/ndvos](http://www.ag.gov.au/ndvos)** for information relevant to your state or territory or contact your local court.



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