

# Legal Avenues for Victims of Domestic Violence

## North Australian Aboriginal Family Legal Service (NAAFLS)



### Getting a Domestic Violence Order (DVO)

- The victim can apply to the court for a DVO against the perpetrator
- A DVO is a court order prohibiting the perpetrator from committing domestic violence against the victim
- A DVO can prohibit all contact between the perpetrator and the victim, or the DVO can allow contact but reduce risk by prohibiting contact when the perpetrator is affected by alcohol or drugs
- A DVO can be obtained at bush court sittings in community
- It is important that the victim has a lawyer to help them with the process of telling their story
- NAAFLS is available to represent Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander victims who want a DVO

### Domestic Violence During Covid-19 Lockdowns / Lockout Periods

- Those experiencing domestic violence can leave their home to escape violence at any time during any lockdown period
- Most domestic violence services are considered essential and are still operational during lockdowns
- If a victim is in immediate danger, call emergency services on 000

### Making a Complaint to Police

- The victim can report what happened to the police
- The victim will need to provide a statement (a written down story about what happened)
- Depending on the circumstances, the police may charge the perpetrator
- The perpetrator may be given bail or kept in custody
- The victim does not decide whether the perpetrator is charged, and whether they are bailed or remanded
- The victim cannot drop the charges, as it is up to police
- The victim may be required to attend court and tell their story to the judge if the perpetrator pleads not guilty

### Contact NAAFLS

**Darwin: 1800 041 998**

**Katherine: 1800 184 868**

**Nhulunbuy: 0477 400 116**