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Fact Sheet 10: Contacting the police

DID YOU KNOW

That every police division has a family violence unit that can support you.

WHO CAN REPORT FAMILY VIOLENCE TO THE POLICE? HOW?

Police reports can be made by anyone who is experiencing the abusive behaviour, concerned friends or family, Neighbours, support services or other services. Police reports can be made by going directly to a Police Station or contacting your local station.

If English is not victim survivors first language, they or you can present to or contact your local station and ask for an interpreter (in your language). It will take a few minutes to connect to the interpreter therefore stay on the phone. If an individual has a hearing impairment or has difficulty being understood verbally, the National Relay Service website explains how to access emergency services –

<https://www.google.com/search?client=safari&rls=en&q=national+relay+service&ie=UTF-8&oe=UTF-8#>

EMERGENCY

If there is a threat to anyone's safety and wellbeing contact 000 immediately.

If there is a language barrier, when contacting 000 ask for an interpreter and state the language you need. Wait on the line as they connect you with an interpreter.

THE ROLE OF THE POLICE

The police role is to uphold the law and respond to any report in relation to family violence. They are trained to assess the safety and risk of all parties involved. Whilst assessing the family violence incident the police will assess risk, considering past family violence and any recorded criminal history. They will identify who is:

- being harmed most (the victim or 'affected family member')
- who is the main person harming others (the primary aggressor or 'other party')

Police risk assessment may include:

- asking if everyone is safe.
- speaking separately to each person and potentially speaking to the child/ren
- asking what has happened now and checking past history.
- checking if, due to the violence, anyone needs medical attention.
- taking note of any damage
- making referrals to support services as required.
- asking whether there are supports already in place.
- ask if there is a third party that can verify the claims.
- has a disability.
- has medical needs.
- has disclosures that are relevant to current safety or the police response.

People who have difficulty speaking or understanding English or have a hearing impairment **can have an interpreter** organised by the police.

FURTHER INFORMATION ABOUT POLICE SUPPORT VISIT THEIR WEBSITE:

[HTTPS://WWW.POLICE.VIC.GOV.AU/FAMILY-VIOLENCE](https://www.police.vic.gov.au/family-violence)

CONTACT US

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