



## What to expect when you report domestic violence — and your rights throughout

Reporting domestic violence to police can feel daunting. Knowing what to expect — and what your rights are — can make the process less frightening.

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## Call 000

### Emergency

- You are in immediate danger
- An assault is happening or has just happened
- A weapon has been used or threatened
- You or a child is injured — ambulance needed
- The person is still present and threatening

## Call 131 444

### Non-emergency

- The incident is over and you are now safe
- Reporting a breach of a protection order
- Making a formal statement about past incidents
- Seeking advice without a formal report
- Requesting a welfare check for yourself or a child

*"She doesn't have to be in danger right now to report — the non-emergency line exists for a reason."*

In Queensland, police have specific obligations when they respond to a domestic violence call:

- Separate you from the respondent to take your statement privately
- Assess the risk to your safety using a risk assessment tool
- Tell you about your options — including applying for a Police Protection Notice
- Provide you with information about support services
- Record the incident with an event number — always ask for this
- Take photographs of any visible injuries if you consent
- Arrange medical help if required

■ **If police fail to meet these obligations, that's a complaint — and it's worth making. See Page 5 for complaint pathways.**

A QP9 is the Queensland Police event report. It documents what police attended, what was reported, and what action was taken. This document may be needed for court, legal aid, or family law proceedings.

<b>1</b>	<b>Ask police for the event number</b> Do this at the time of the call-out — don't leave without it
<b>2</b>	<b>Request a copy of the QP9</b> Contact your local police station directly
<b>3</b>	<b>Submit a Right to Information (RTI) request</b> At <a href="http://police.qld.gov.au">police.qld.gov.au</a> if the station cannot help
<b>4</b>	<b>Legal Aid or a community legal centre</b> Can also help you obtain this document — 1300 651 188

*"Always ask for the event number on the night. It is the starting point for everything that follows."*

A formal statement is a written record of your account that is signed by you. It may be used as evidence in court proceedings, protection order applications, and family law matters.

### You have the right to:

- Have a support person present when you make your statement
- Request a female officer to take your statement
- Request an interpreter — this is free
- Take breaks during the statement process
- Review your statement before signing it
- Receive a copy of your statement

■ **You do not have to make a statement to have police take action. Police can act on their own observations. However, a statement significantly strengthens the case.**

Unfortunately, not all police responses meet the standard they should. If you were dismissed, not believed, or not given your rights — there are pathways.

<b>1</b>	<b>Document everything</b> Write down the officer's name or badge number, what they said, and when
<b>2</b>	<b>Ask to speak to the officer-in-charge</b> You can do this at the station on the same night
<b>3</b>	<b>Make a complaint to Queensland Police Service</b> <a href="http://complaints.police.qld.gov.au">complaints.police.qld.gov.au</a>
<b>4</b>	<b>Contact the Crime and Corruption Commission (CCC)</b> <a href="http://ccc.qld.gov.au">ccc.qld.gov.au</a> / 07 3360 6060
<b>5</b>	<b>Contact Women's Legal Service QLD</b> 1800 957 957 — for advocacy and legal support

*"A poor response is not the end of the road. There are formal mechanisms — and people — who will take this seriously when others didn't."*

Keep this checklist. Know these rights. Share them with anyone who needs them.

- You have the right to be treated with dignity and respect
- You have the right to a support person when making a statement
- You have the right to a free interpreter
- You have the right to request a female officer
- You have the right to the event number and police report (QP9)
- You have the right to make a complaint if you are treated poorly
- You do not have to proceed with charges — but police can still act independently

■ **If you are arrested or charged in relation to a DV incident and you believe it was not your fault, contact Legal Aid QLD immediately: 1300 651 188. This happens — and specialist legal support is critical.**

Service	What they do	Number
Emergency	Police, ambulance, fire — immediate danger	000
1800RESPECT	24/7 crisis counselling and referral	1800 737 732
DVConnect QLD	Emergency accommodation and support	1800 811 811
Legal Aid QLD	Free legal advice	1300 651 188
Women's Legal Service QLD	Free legal advice for women	1800 957 957
Lifeline	Crisis support and suicide prevention	13 11 14
13YARN	24/7 crisis support for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people	13 92 76

■ You deserve to be taken seriously. If the first response fails you, there are pathways — and people — who will help. Reach out to The Purple Arrow: [hello@thepurplearrow.com.au](mailto:hello@thepurplearrow.com.au)