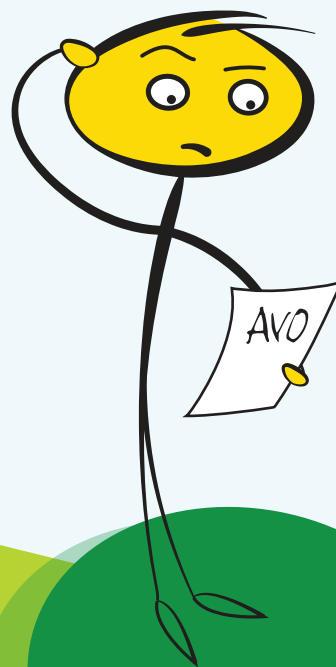


Get to know  
your

AVO

Apprehended  
Violence  
Order



Get to know  
your

AVO

Apprehended  
Violence  
Order

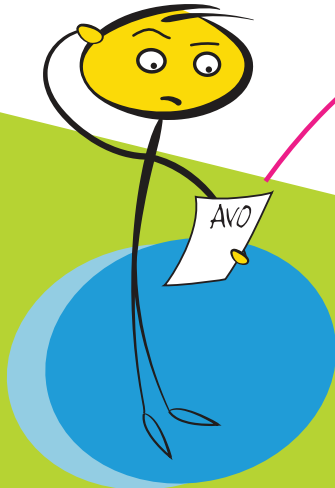
If you do something that makes someone afraid of you the police can give you an Apprehended Violence Order (AVO).

An AVO will have rules.

You must **follow the rules**.

You will have to go to court. The final AVO will be decided at court.

You will have an opportunity to question the rules at court.



Look for  
your **COURT  
DATE**



## What is an AVO?

Alex threatened his girlfriend. She was afraid of him.  
The police gave Alex an AVO.



- An AVO is to protect a person who is afraid from someone who is scaring them.
- The person who is scared is called the protected person or PINOP.
- Every AVO has rules.
- The person given the AVO must follow the rules.
- The protected person does not have to follow the AVO rules.



**Get help** - The best person to explain your AVO rules is a **lawyer**. A lawyer can help you when you go to court. Phone numbers to call for free legal advice and information are on the back page.

**Talk to a  
LAWYER**

## What are the AVO Rules?

Every AVO has these rules: Do not stalk, intimidate, assault, threaten or harass the protected person. These words mean one simple thing: **"Back Off"**.



Do NOT Stalk  
Intimidate  
Assault  
Threaten Harass

do not  
text

do not  
follow

do not  
follow on  
Facebook

- BACK OFF means leave the protected person alone.
- It's a good idea not to text or follow the person on Facebook.
- There can be other rules, such as do not go near the protected person or their home or work.
- If you have an AVO you must obey the rules even if you think the rules are unfair.
- Make sure you understand what you cannot do.
- There will be serious consequences if you do not follow the rules.

**BACK  
OFF!**

## What happens if you break the AVO rules?

When Becky got her AVO she did not understand the rules. Becky broke a rule of her AVO. The police arrested her and charged her with breaking a rule of her AVO.



- If you break the AVO rules you can be arrested and taken to a police station.
- You can get charged with a criminal offence.
- You could go to jail.
- If police charge you they could give you bail conditions which are even more rules you have to follow.
- You have a right to a support person at a police station if you are under 18 or have a disability.
- It is important to tell the police if you have a disability.
- You can ask the police to call a lawyer.

## What happens if you are charged?

Becky got a criminal charge because she broke a rule in her AVO. She now has to go to court for the criminal charge and the AVO. Becky will need legal advice before she goes to court. She will also need a lawyer at court.



- If you get charged with breaking a rule of your AVO you must go to court.
- It is a good idea to get legal advice from a lawyer before court.
- It is a good idea to get a lawyer to represent you at court.
- A support person can help you at court.



There are phone numbers for lawyers and court support on the back page.

**Talk to a  
LAWYER**

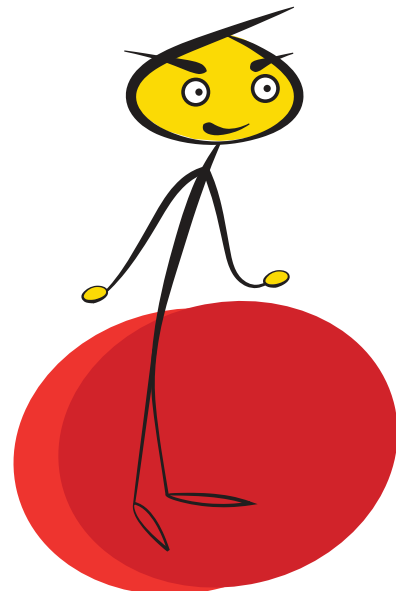
## Stop, Think and Walk Away

Alex and Becky both got an AVO. Even if Alex and Becky think their behaviour was not scary they have to follow the rules. The best way to avoid an AVO is to stop, think and walk away.



- Getting an AVO is serious.
- Everyone gets angry with other people sometimes.
- Get help before you lose your temper and make someone afraid.
- If you think you are going to do something to make someone afraid:

**STOP, THINK and WALK AWAY.**



# Where to get help

## Intellectual Disability Rights Service (IDRS)

- a service for people with intellectual disability who live in NSW
- legal advice in police stations 9am-10pm, 7 days
- support person at police stations and court in most areas
- legal advice and information during office hours

**Phone: 1300 665 908** [www.idrs.org.au](http://www.idrs.org.au)

## LawAccess NSW

- a free government telephone service for legal information, referrals and sometimes legal advice for people in NSW

**Phone: 1300 888 529** [www.lawaccess.nsw.gov.au](http://www.lawaccess.nsw.gov.au)

## Legal Aid NSW

- legal advice and some court representation
- it is important to tell Legal Aid if you have a disability as it might help to get a lawyer at court
- contact your local area Legal Aid office

**Head Office NSW Phone: (02) 9219 5000** [www.legalaid.nsw.gov.au](http://www.legalaid.nsw.gov.au)

## Aboriginal Legal Service (NSW/ACT) ALS

- assisting Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander men, women and children
- types of law we cover: criminal law, family law and care and protection law matters
- types of help: information and referral, and advice and representation in court

**Phone: 1800 765 767** [www.alsnswact.org.au](http://www.alsnswact.org.au)

## The Shopfront Youth Legal Centre

- free legal service for homeless and disadvantaged young people aged 25 and under
- main areas of law are criminal law, traffic, fines, victims compensation

**Phone: (02) 9322 4808** [www.theshopfront.org](http://www.theshopfront.org)

## Legal Information Access Centre (LIAC) at the State Library of NSW

- an online information service

[www.legalanswers.sl.nsw.gov.au](http://www.legalanswers.sl.nsw.gov.au)

**IMPORTANT** - this document only provides general information. It is not intended to be a substitute for you getting your own specific legal advice.

This publication has been produced with the financial assistance of the Law and Justice Foundation of NSW. The Foundation seeks to advance the fairness and equity of the justice system and to improve access to justice, especially for socially and economically disadvantaged people. <http://www.lawfoundation.net.au>

Disclaimer: any opinions expressed in this publication are those of the authors and do not necessarily reflect the views of the Law and Justice Foundation's Board of Governors.

