

WE HAVE SERIOUS CONCERNS ABOUT YOUR SAFETY

Domestic and Family Violence is a crime that can include assault, sexual assault, harassment, injury and damage to property. It is a crime that our community takes very seriously. It is a policy of this agency to take positive action whenever possible in response to family and domestic violence.

If you and your family have been identified as being at high risk of serious harm due to family and domestic violence, then information relating to your level of risk and safety may be referred to a regional Family Safety Meeting

What is a Family Safety Meeting?

A Family Safety Meeting is a multi-agency response to high risk cases of family and domestic violence. These meetings are held regularly and bring together selected agencies who meet to address any issues in relation to the immediate safety of women, children and young people. **It is important that you know that information shared at a Family Safety Meeting will be in confidence and will NOT be shared with the offender.** This is done with your safety in mind. Also, information shared will only be in relation to issues of your risk and safety and that of children in your care.

Why are you being referred?

Your case is being referred to enable agencies to discuss the risks posed to your safety and to assist in increasing your safety and wellbeing. The referral may also assist your access to relevant support.

Do you have to attend the Family Safety Meeting?

No. You and your family are not expected to attend a Family Safety Meeting. The meeting is for workers only.

Who attends a Family Safety Meeting?

Professional workers from the following agencies regularly attend Family Safety Meetings:

Government Agencies in each FSF region

- Department of Children and Families (Child Protection)
- Department of the Attorney-General and Justice
- Department of Correctional Services
- Department of Education
- Department of Housing
- Department of Health (Emergency Department)
- Commonwealth Department of Human Services – Centrelink.

Non-Government Agencies

Alice Springs

- Alice Springs Women's Shelter
- NPY Women's Council
- Central Australian Aboriginal Congress
- Tangentyere Council

Darwin

- DAWN House Women's Shelter
- DAIWS
- Larrakia Nation Aboriginal Corporation
- YWCA DFV Service

Katherine

- Wurlu Wurlinjang Health Services
- Binjari Health Clinic
- Katherine Women's Crisis Centre

Tennant Creek

- Anyinginyi Health Aboriginal Corporation
- Barkly Region Alcohol Drug Abuse Advisory Group
- Tennant Creek Women's Refuge

Other local service providers may be called upon on occasions to participate, as required.

What can you expect out of the process?

With every case referred to a Family Safety Meeting an action plan is developed at the meeting. This is a plan indicating what agencies can and will do to support you and your family around the risks to your safety. It may also involve actions from those agencies that are in contact with the perpetrator of violence towards you.

Where it is safe and relevant to do so, decisions made at a Family Safety Meeting will be reported back to you. The worker with whom you initially had contact, will report back to you.

Your rights

You may not want your case referred to a Family Safety Meeting. Some people are worried that this could make their situation worse. You can let the workers involved know if you do not agree to a referral. As part of our duty of care when life is at serious risk, our agency may still need to go ahead with a referral but we can indicate that you have not given your consent and state your concerns on the referral form.

Who can you talk to for further information?

If you have any issues or concerns about being involved in a Family Safety Meeting then you can talk to workers at this agency.