



**SAFE
HOMES
FAMILIES
COMMUNITIES**

RESPONDING TO FAMILY AND SEXUAL VIOLENCE

A guide for service providers
and practitioners in Tasmania

January 2021

SEEKING HELP

In an emergency, always call **000**.

If you or someone you know is impacted by family violence call the Safe at Home Family Violence Response and Referral Line on **1800 633 937**.

If you or someone you know is impacted by sexual violence call the Statewide Sexual Assault Crisis Support Line on **1800 697 877**.

Call 1800RESPECT the national sexual assault, domestic family violence counselling service on **1800 737 732** or visit www.1800respect.org.au for online chat options and information.

For further information visit www.safefromviolence.tas.gov.au

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF THE TASMANIAN ABORIGINAL PEOPLE

The Tasmanian Government acknowledges and pays respect to the Tasmanian Aboriginal people as the traditional and original owners and continuing custodians of this land.

We acknowledge elders, past, present and emerging.

We acknowledge the devastating impacts of family and sexual violence in the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities.

We recognise the ongoing leadership of Aboriginal communities in addressing and preventing family and sexual violence.

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A PRACTICE GUIDE FOR SERVICE PROVIDERS AND PRACTITIONERS

It is the vision of the Tasmanian Government that all Tasmanians are safe, equal and respected; and our homes, families and communities are free from all forms of family and sexual violence.

BACKGROUND

The Practice Guide was first developed in 2016 by the Tasmanian Government in collaboration with specialist family and sexual violence service providers and community sector organisations.

This updated edition is an initiative under *Safe Homes, Families, Communities: Tasmania's action plan for family and sexual violence 2019-2022*.

To help people affected by family and sexual violence, it is important to ensure there is a common understanding of what constitutes family and sexual violence in Tasmania; the range of services available to provide support; and that service providers and practitioners are equipped to respond to family and sexual violence if or when it presents in their day-to-day work.

All service providers and practitioners have a role to play in supporting clients impacted by family and sexual violence. A victim-survivor's only disclosure of family or sexual violence may be to their general practitioner, or a perpetrator's only contact with a service provider may be through their access to housing services. These interactions can be viewed as an opportunity to engage in a conversation about family or sexual violence and serve as a catalyst for victim-survivors and perpetrators to access assistance from specialist family and sexual violence services.

Service providers and practitioners must be clear about their areas of expertise and stay within the parameters of their role. If family or sexual violence does present in your work, this Practice Guide aims to enable you to make appropriate referrals to specialist services.

SEEKING SUPPORT

Responding to family and sexual violence can be difficult and stressful. Ensure you have adequate workplace supports when reading and considering the ideas in this Practice Guide. Refer to your employee assistance program for support.

PURPOSE

The Practice Guide is intended for use by all service providers and practitioners who come into contact with victim-survivors and/or perpetrators of family and sexual violence.

The Practice Guide will assist service providers and practitioners to understand:

- the legislative definition of family violence in Tasmania;
- the legislative definition of sexual assault in Tasmania; and
- the services available to support those impacted by family and sexual violence.

The Practice Guide aims to support a more integrated response for those affected by family and sexual violence. An integrated response refers to:

- government and community-based services working in a coordinated and collaborative manner to provide holistic, safe and accountable responses to victim-survivors and perpetrators;
- streamlined pathways through the service system; and
- seamless service delivery between service providers.

The involvement and support of different service providers and practitioners can lead to strong, coordinated and collaborative responses that have the collective capacity to keep victim-survivors safe and hold perpetrators to account.

This Practice Guide is focused on adult victim-survivors and perpetrators of family and sexual violence. However, information and support pathways for children and young people are also provided.

PRINCIPLES

- Family and sexual violence is a violation of human rights and should not be tolerated in any community or culture.
- The safety of victim-survivors, both adults and children, is paramount and will be the first priority of any response.
- The *Family Violence Act 2004* (Tas) provides the framework for the response to family violence in Tasmania.
- Victim-survivors will not be held responsible for perpetrators' behaviour.
- Perpetrators will be held accountable for their behaviour and acts that constitute a criminal offence will be dealt with accordingly.
- Children and young people have unique vulnerabilities and all efforts must be made to protect them from harm.

TERMINOLOGY

Victim-survivor

This Practice Guide uses the term 'victim-survivor', to describe people who have experienced or are experiencing family and sexual violence. The term recognises the strength and resilience shown by people who have experienced or who are living with family and sexual violence. It is acknowledged that not every person who has experienced, or is experiencing violence, identifies with this term.

The phrase 'person who has experienced violence', which labels the behaviour rather than the person, is an alternative term.

Perpetrator

This Practice Guide uses the term 'perpetrator' to describe people who commit family and sexual violence. The term 'offender' is also used. These terms reinforce the serious and criminal nature of family and sexual violence.

The phrase 'person who uses violence' is an alternative term, which acknowledges that perpetration of violence does not define perpetrators, and that many people who perpetrate violence have experienced their own trauma.

DEFINING FAMILY AND SEXUAL VIOLENCE IN TASMANIA

FAMILY VIOLENCE

The *Family Violence Act 2004 (Tas)* (the Act) defines family violence in Tasmania. The Act emphasises the criminal nature of family violence and the importance of tailored support services and information to improve the safety of victim-survivors, adults and children, exposed to family violence.

Under the Act, the safety, psychological wellbeing and interests of people affected by family violence are the most important considerations.

Conduct

In Tasmania, family violence includes a range of violent behaviours, referred to as 'conduct' in the Act, including:

- assault including sexual assault;
- threats;
- coercion;
- intimidation;
- verbal abuse;
- abduction;
- stalking; or
- an attempt to do any of those things.

In Tasmania, family violence is recognised as more than physical violence and also includes:

- economic abuse;
- emotional abuse;
- intimidation;

- breaching any existing orders relating to family violence; and
- property damage.



Family Violence Act 2004 (Tas)

Section 7 defines family violence

Section 8 defines economic abuse

Section 9 defines emotional abuse

Relationships

In Tasmania, under the Act, family violence occurs where violent conduct is committed directly or indirectly against a person's spouse, partner or ex-partner.

Spouse or partner is another person with whom the person is, or has been, in a marriage or 'significant' relationship.

To determine if two people were or are in a 'significant' relationship, Police and the Courts look at the circumstances of the relationship and consider factors including the length of the relationship; whether the couple are living together; and the care and support of any children.

In Tasmania, under the Act, family violence can only occur in marriages or significant relationships between two adults, or between two people where one or both are aged 16 to 18 years.



Family Violence Act 2004 (Tas)

Section 4 defines spouse or partner; family relationship, (referring to the *Relationships Act 2003 (Tas)*); and the age restrictions.

Relationships Act 2003 (Tas)

Section 4 defines significant relationships and the circumstances that determine if two people are in a significant relationship.

WHAT'S THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN DOMESTIC AND FAMILY VIOLENCE?

The terms domestic violence and family violence are often used interchangeably. However, the scope of relationships covered by domestic and family violence legislation varies across the states and territories.

Tasmania uses the term 'family violence' to acknowledge that children are impacted when violence is directed at one of their carers and, as a result, are victim-survivors in their own right.

In other jurisdictions, violence perpetrated by a spouse or partner may be known as domestic violence or intimate partner violence, and family violence is a broader term that can include violence between other family members.

Other conduct - Family argument

A family argument is a dispute between two persons, in a relationship, where family violence as defined in Section 7 of the Act has not been, and is not likely to be, committed.

EXAMPLE:

A couple may engage in a loud, verbal argument that attracts attention of concerned neighbours who, in response, contact Tasmania Police. On arrival, Tasmania Police make an assessment about whether a situation is a family argument or family violence.

Other relationships

Violence perpetrated by someone other than a spouse or partner, or in dating situations where the relationship is not deemed significant by the *Relationships Act 2003 (Tas)*, is not considered family violence in Tasmania because the relationships are not covered by the *Family Violence Act (Tas)*.

EXAMPLES:

- Violence perpetrated by a child against a parent is not considered family violence in Tasmania because the violence is not perpetrated by a spouse or partner.
- Violence perpetrated in a casual dating situation is not family violence as the relationship does not fit the definition of significant, as defined by the *Relationships Act 2003 (Tas)*.

SEEKING HELP

All violence is wrong and help is available. Those affected by other types of violence should consider:

- reporting incidents to Tasmania Police;
- applying for a restraint order (through Tasmania Police or the Magistrates Court); or
- discussing their options with support services.

Responses to violence perpetrated in other relationships may be addressed by a number of Acts, including:

- *Children, Young Persons and their Families Act 1997* (Tas)
- *Youth Justice Act 1997* (Tas)
- *Justices Act 1959* (Tas)
- *Criminal Code Act 1924* (Tas)
- *Magistrates Court (Children's Division) Act 1998* (Tas)
- *Justices (Restraint Orders) Rules 2013* (Tas).

Elder abuse

Elder abuse is a single or repeated act of abuse occurring in a relationship where there is an implication of trust, which causes harm to an older person. The trusting relationship can be between the older person and their partner, children, in-laws, grandchildren, carers, neighbours and friends, nurses, social workers, home help or even professionals looking after the person's finances. As such, elder abuse can be formal or informal, voluntary or imposed.

Abuse of older people can include physical, psychological, emotional, financial, sexual and social abuse as well as intentional or unintentional neglect.

Elder abuse is also considered family violence where the abuse is perpetrated by a spouse or partner.

Where abuse against an older person is perpetrated by a child, carer or friend, it is not considered family violence in Tasmania because the violence is not perpetrated by a spouse or partner.

Where there are immediate safety and risk concerns, call Tasmania Police on **000**.

Where there are safety, risk and wellbeing concerns, call the Tasmanian Elder Abuse Hotline on **1800 441 169**. The hotline is a free, confidential, statewide service, operated by Advocacy Tasmania, which is available Monday to Friday, from 9am to 4pm.

Further information is available at www.advocacytasmania.org.au

Respect and Protect Older Tasmanians: Tasmania's Elder Abuse Prevention Strategy 2019-2022 is the Tasmanian Government's elder abuse policy.

Further information is available at www.communities.tas.gov.au/disability-community-servicedisability-community-services

Child abuse

Child abuse includes neglect, physical abuse, psychological harm, sexual abuse and family violence.

The protection of children and young people in Tasmania is covered by the *Children, Young Persons and Their Families Act 1997 (Tas)*.

The response to child abuse in Tasmania is delivered by the Child Safety Service (CSS) in the Department of Communities Tasmania.

The role of CSS is to protect children and young people who are at risk of abuse or neglect.

All adults have a moral responsibility to report suspected or actual child abuse.

Additionally, it is mandatory for some service providers and professionals to report suspected or actual child abuse. This requirement overrides confidentiality.



Children, Young Persons and their Families Act 1997 (Tas)

Section 4 defines 'at risk'

Section 14 defines and lists 'prescribed persons', who are obliged to report a child affected by family violence.

Failure to report can lead to criminal prosecution.

Where there are immediate safety and risk concerns for children, call Tasmania Police on **000**.

Where there are safety, risk and wellbeing concerns, call the Strong Families, Safe Kids Advice and Referral Line **1800 000 123**.

For more information or to submit an online notification about abuse or neglect visit **www.strongfamiliesafekids.tas.gov.au**

SEXUAL VIOLENCE

Sexual violence is behaviour of a sexual nature directed towards a person that makes them feel uncomfortable, distressed or threatened and to which they have not consented.

It includes a wide range of unwanted and non-consensual sexual behaviours, that are often traumatic and harmful, including:

- sexual harassment;
- technology-facilitated abuse;
- unwanted kissing;
- sexual touching;
- coercion;
- sexual assault including rape; and
- child sexual abuse.

Sexual assault and rape

The term sexual assault describes a legally-defined criminal offence which involves physical assault of a sexual nature directed towards another person without their consent. This includes a range of behaviours legally defined as sexual crimes such as rape, sexual assault, being forced to watch or engage in pornography, forced prostitution, and being made to have sex with friends of the perpetrator.

Sexual acts that constitute a criminal offence in Tasmania are included in the *Criminal Code Act 1924 (Tas)* and the *Police Offences Act 1935 (Tas)*.

Chapter XIV of the *Criminal Code Act 1924 (Tas)* outlines sexual crimes, including sexual abuse of children and young people; sexual abuse of a person with mental impairment and indecent assault.

Section 185 outlines the charge of rape:

Any person who has sexual intercourse with another person without that person's consent is guilty of a crime.

Consent is defined in Section 2A and sexual intercourse is defined in Section 2B.

Age and consent

All states and territories have laws about sexual activity involving children and young people. Depending on laws and other considerations, such as the age of the parties, the nature of the relationship and any other power imbalances, the sexual activity may constitute sexual assault, regardless of whether the young person consented.

In Tasmania, under Section 124 of the *Criminal Code Act 1924 (Tas)*, it is a crime to have sexual intercourse with a young person under the age of 17 years.

Consent of the young person is only a potential defence in two situations:

- where the young person is 15 years of age or older and the accused person is not more than 5 years older; and
- where the young person is 12 years of age or older and the accused person is not more than 3 years older.

Consent of a child under 12 years of age is never a defence.

Intersection of family and sexual violence

Sexual violence perpetrated by a current or former partner also constitutes family violence. Intimate partner sexual violence is often part of a larger pattern of coercive control in a relationship.

Non-partner sexual violence is perpetrated outside of an intimate relationships where the perpetrator may be a stranger, a friend or acquaintance, a colleague or peers, a teacher, neighbour or other family members.

Sexual assault or rape perpetrated in a casual dating situation is not family violence as the relationship is not deemed significant by the *Relationships Act 2003 (Tas)*.

Sexual harassment

Sexual harassment is sexualised behaviour that makes a person feel offended, humiliated, intimidated, insulted or ridiculed in circumstances where it could have been anticipated they would feel that way.

Sexual harassment is against the law if it relates to one of the following places or activities:

- Work – paid or voluntary
- Training or studying
- Providing or accessing facilities or services
- Buying or selling goods
- Club membership or club-related activities
- Hotels and pubs
- Housing and accommodation
- Office and other business premises
- The design or implementation of state laws or programs
- Making or implementing industrial awards, enterprise agreements or industrial agreements.

In addition to legal support services (refer to page 38) and specialist family and sexual violence support services (refer to pages 32-34), Equal Opportunity Tasmania can provide information and assist in making a complaint in relation to sexual harassment.

Visit www.equalopportunity.tas.gov.au or call **1300 305 062**.

Technology-facilitated abuse

Technology-facilitated abuse encompasses a range of behaviours where technology is used to control, abuse, harass, punish, bully, stalk, impersonate, scare, threaten, coerce and/or exploit a victim-survivor.

Examples include installing spyware on devices; restricting access to finances; restricting methods of communication; sexting; monitoring; remotely accessing personal devices such as mobile phones or computers; sending threatening and abusive texts or emails; GPS tracking; and image-based abuse.

Image-based abuse

Image-based abuse occurs when intimate, nude or sexual images are distributed, or threatened to be distributed/shared, without the consent of those pictured. This includes real, altered and drawn pictures and videos. Image-based abuse may also be referred to as 'revenge porn', 'non-consensual sharing of intimate images', or 'intimate image abuse'.

'Revenge porn' is the term most commonly used in the media; however it is not encouraged as in many cases it is not about 'revenge', nor is it restricted to 'porn'.

If a victim-survivor is experiencing technology-facilitated abuse, including image-based abuse as part of family or sexual violence, the eSafety Commissioner can provide advice to help stay safe, including online safety planning, in a number of languages.

There is now a civil penalties scheme to address image-based abuse in Australia. Image-based abuse can be reported to the eSafety Commissioner, that can help get the material removed as quickly as possible and also take action against the person who posted, or threatened to post, an intimate image without consent.

For more information on how to stay safe online visit www.esafety.gov.au



11 per cent of Australians aged 18 years and over have experienced image-based abuse. Women aged 18 to 24 years are most likely to be targets

Harmful sexual behaviours

Problem sexual behaviour (PSB) is defined as behaviour in children and young people that is outside the behaviour considered 'normal' according to their age and level of development. PSB may be socially inappropriate and may cause harm to the young person displaying the behaviour or to others.

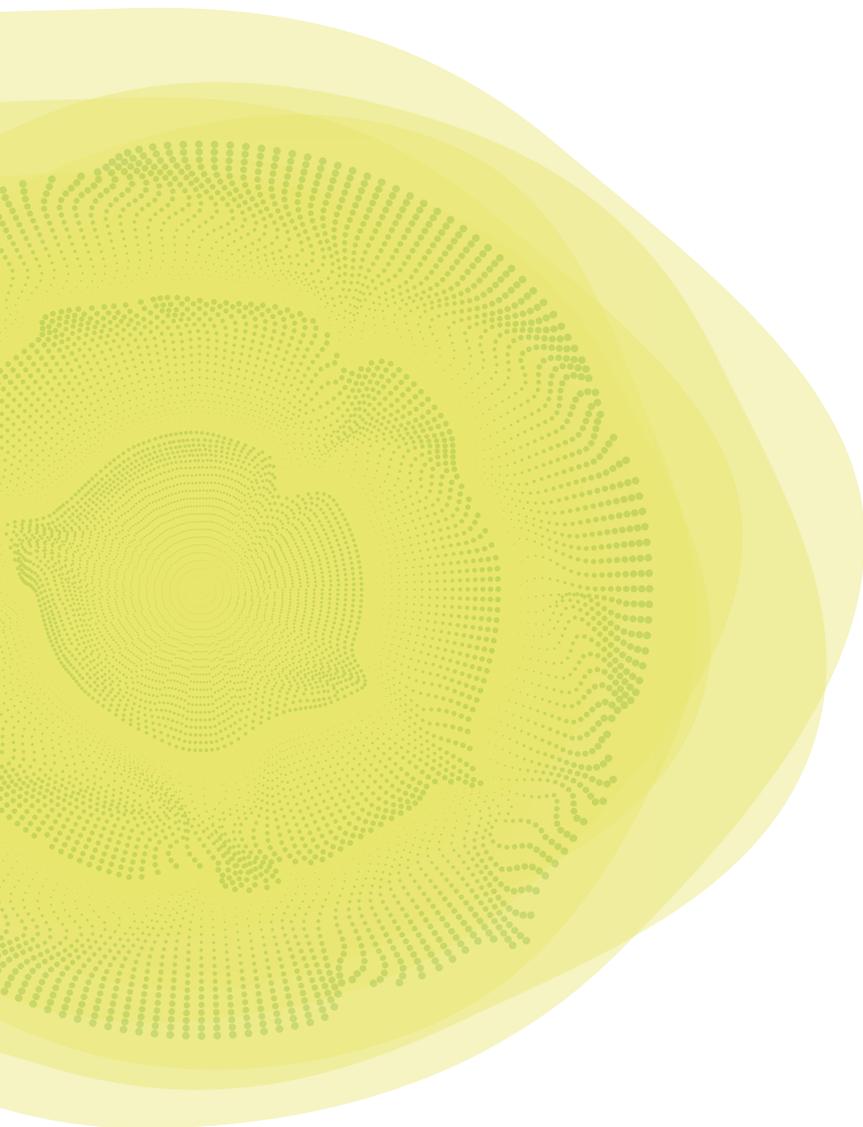
When harmful behaviour is directed at others it is called sexually abusive behaviour (SAB).

Children and young people engaging in PSB/SAB should not be considered the same as adult perpetrators of sexual violence.

If a client is displaying PSB or SAB:

- Stay calm
- Clearly and calmly ask the child or adolescent to stop the behaviour
- For younger children, you can redirect the child to a different activity
- Talk with the child or adolescent in private about the behaviour and explain why it is not okay
- Seek professional support.

For more information contact the Sexual Assault Support Service on **(03) 6231 0044** or visit **www.sass.org.au**



UNDERSTANDING FAMILY AND SEXUAL VIOLENCE

PREVALENCE OF FAMILY AND SEXUAL VIOLENCE

Due to underreporting, the true extent of family and sexual violence in Australia is unknown. For example, in relation to their most recent sexual assault by a male, nine out of ten women did not contact the police.

Despite underreporting, we know that the extent of family and sexual violence in Australia is significant and persistent.

In 2019-20, there were 3,576 family violence incidents reported to Tasmania Police.

In 2019-20, there were 206 sexual assaults reported to Tasmania Police:

- 38 per cent of sexual assaults reported in 2019-20 were committed more than a year before they were reported, some occurring several decades ago
- 74 per cent occurred in residential locations
- 88 per cent of victim-survivors were female.

Violence against women and gender-based violence

Family and sexual violence are often referred to as violence against women or gender-based violence. This is because they disproportionately affect women.

While most men are not violent, around 95 per cent of all victim-survivors experience violence perpetrated by a male perpetrator.

Men largely experience violence perpetrated by other men in public spaces, while women mostly experience violence perpetrated by men they know in private contexts.

Most acts of family and sexual violence are perpetrated by men against women.

The impacts of violence are more severe for women, who are more likely to be afraid of, hospitalised by, or killed by an intimate partner.

Supporting all victim-survivors

All violence is unacceptable, but to prevent family and sexual violence in our community, we must acknowledge and address these gendered patterns.

This Practice Guide recognises that male and gender diverse victim-survivors also require support. Many men have experienced sexual violence, particularly as children. For example, Tasmania has the highest percentage of male victim-survivors of sexual assault in comparison to other states and territories, with men accounting for 24 per cent of victim-survivors and women accounting for 76 per cent.

CAUSES OF FAMILY AND SEXUAL VIOLENCE

While the causes and contributors are complex, family and sexual violence is driven by gender inequality. Other factors may interact with, or reinforce, gender inequality and contribute to increased frequency and severity of violence, but do not drive violence in and of themselves. For example, mental health and the use of alcohol and other drugs.

Change the Story: A shared framework for the primary prevention of violence against women

and their children in Australia (Change the Story) outlines how gender inequality sets the necessary social context in which violence against women occurs.

Change the Story identifies the four gendered drives of violence:

- condoning violence against women;
- men's control of decision making;
- rigid gender roles and stereotypes; and
- male peer relations that emphasise aggression and disrespect towards women.

Figure 1: Gendered drivers of violence against women



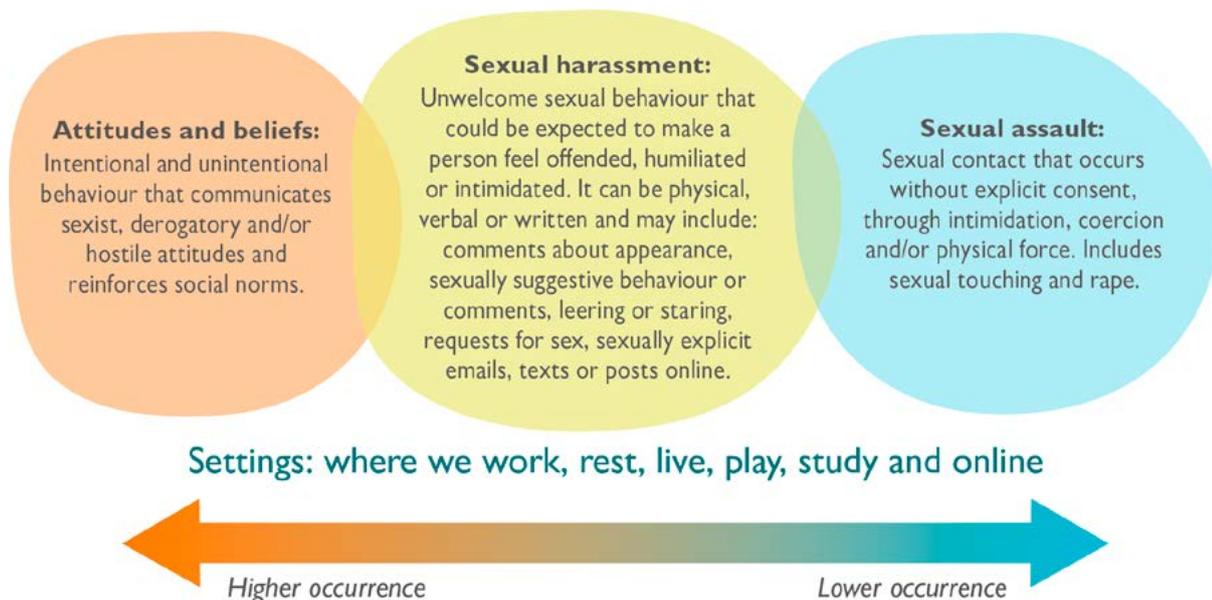
A continuum of attitudes and behaviours

Family and sexual violence may be considered as a continuum of attitudes and behaviours that start with attitudes and beliefs that escalate to inappropriate, unwelcome and criminal behaviours including harassment, assault, rape and death.

Not all disrespect leads to violence. But all violence starts with disrespectful behaviour.

By justifying, excusing or downplaying disrespectful behaviour, we allow disrespect to become normalised and accepted.

Figure 2: Continuum of sexual violence



PRIMARY PREVENTION

Primary prevention means stopping violence from occurring by addressing the underlying causes of violence.

By increasing knowledge, awareness and understanding of the nature and causes of family and sexual violence, and influencing attitudes to bring about behavioural change, we can end violence against women.

An effective primary prevention approach will support and complement early intervention and crisis response efforts by reducing pressure on these other parts of the system.

Primary prevention makes preventing violence everyone's responsibility and asserts that we all have a role to play in changing the culture, structures and attitudes that drive family and sexual violence.

Further information and resources

Our Watch

Our Watch is a national leader in the primary prevention of violence against women and their children in Australia. It works to embed gender equality and prevent violence where Australians live, learn, work and socialise.

Our Watch has developed a Prevention Handbook with information for new and emerging practitioners, well as tools and resources for experienced practitioners.

The Prevention Handbook can be accessed at <https://handbook.ourwatch.org.au/>

For more information and to access other tools and resources, visit www.ourwatch.org.au

Stop It At The Start

In 2017, the Australian, state and territory governments launched the *Stop It At the Start* campaign, which aimed to break the cycle of violence by supporting adults to have conversations with young people about respect; and encouraging adults to reflect on their own attitudes and behaviours.

To learn about how to stop violence before it starts and to access supporting materials and information, visit www.respect.gov.au

IMPACTS OF VIOLENCE

Family and sexual violence can be a traumatic experience, which people respond to and recover from in different ways. Every person is different, and the individual and cumulative impacts of each act of violence depends on many complex factors.

There is no right or wrong way to feel and no set time for recovery.

While each person's experience of violence will be unique, there are many common effects of living with violence and living in fear.

Common responses include shock and disbelief; fear; anger; shame; guilt and self-blame; betrayal; numbness; and worry and anxiety.

There are short, medium and long-term physical, emotional, psychological, social and economic impacts on victim-survivors.

The physical effects of family and sexual violence include serious injuries and even death. There are also other effects on physical health – including insomnia, headaches, chronic pain, physical exhaustion and, for women, reproductive health problems – that are not necessarily the result of physical injuries.

People experiencing family and sexual violence are more likely to experience depression, anxiety, panic attacks, phobias and sleeping disorders. They have higher stress levels and are at greater risk of suicide attempts. They may engage in risk-taking behaviour, self-harm or self-medicate through alcohol and/or other drug use.

Seeing the effects of violence on their children can be profoundly distressing, particularly for mothers experiencing family violence. Their capacity to parent children can be affected by the physical, emotional and cognitive effects of their own experiences of the violence, and by men's deliberate attempts to undermine their confidence and ability as mothers.

Family and sexual violence can have significant effects on health, relationships, social connections and participation in community life.

Children and young people

Children and young people also have unique experiences of family violence, which are often very different from those of adults. They have their own distinct needs, independent of those of their parents or caregivers.

While many children show great resilience, family violence can have a profound impact on them. Even when children do not actually see or hear the abuse, living with family violence can lead to fear and stress, threatening their health and wellbeing. They may notice the impacts on the parent who has been abused, and may feel unsafe due to the unpredictable environment at home. For children, the experience of living in a situation where their needs for love and security are secondary to the unpredictable, controlling behaviour of a violent parent or other adult in the home, can be a form of complex trauma.

Research has consistently found that children who are exposed to family violence have higher levels of emotional and behavioural problems than children who have not. A greater risk of physical abuse or having their physical and emotional needs neglected.

All responses to family violence should consider children's safety and ongoing support as paramount.

Intimate partner violence (defined as family violence in Tasmania) is the number one risk factor contributing to the disease burden in Australian women aged 18 to 44 years.

Family violence often begins or increases during periods of separation.

Family violence is a major cause of homelessness in Australia, with 42 per cent of clients accessing Specialist Homelessness Services having experienced family violence.

At-risk groups

Family and sexual violence can happen to anyone. It affects people from all walks of life regardless of age, gender, race, culture, ethnicity, religion, sexual identity, disability status, economic status or location. It occurs

in a range of settings, such as homes, schools, workplaces, in communities and online.

Every person's experience of family and sexual violence is unique. However, there are groups and communities who are at increased risk of experiencing violence; at increased risk of experiencing more frequent and severe violence; and/or who face additional barriers to accessing support and securing safety.

These groups may include:

- women;
- young women;
- women who are pregnant or in early motherhood;
- Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples;
- people with disability;
- lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and intersex people;
- people from culturally and linguistically diverse backgrounds including migrants and refugees;
- older people;
- people in rural and remote communities; and
- children and young people.

There is a high level of diversity between, and within, at-risk groups.

Co-morbidity

The term co-morbidity describes two or more factors occurring in the same person. They can occur at the same time or one after the other, and interactions between the factors may worsen the course of both.

Family and sexual violence often have a co-morbidity with other factors, including:

- alcohol and other drugs;
- mental health issues; and
- acquired brain injury.

These factors may be present in family and sexual violence and contribute to the dynamics within the relationship. However, they are not the cause of and do not justify or excuse violence.

RECOGNISING AND RESPONDING TO FAMILY AND SEXUAL VIOLENCE

INDICATORS OF FAMILY VIOLENCE

Identifying family violence can be a challenging task. Family violence may be masked by other dynamics; deliberately or unintentionally minimised by the victim; or denied or minimised by the perpetrator. In some circumstances, it may be difficult to distinguish family violence from forms of conflict that are not usually regarded as abusive.

Indicators that a person may be a victim-survivor of family violence include the person:

- being intimidated or frightened by their partner;
- being withdrawn or reluctant to speak;
- being overly anxious to please their partner;
- revealing that their partner constantly follows, calls or texts them wanting to know where they are, what they are doing and who they are with;
- revealing that they are regularly criticised or verbally put down by their partner;
- revealing that their partner is jealous and possessive;
- referring to their partner as having a bad temper or being moody;
- repeatedly having bruises, broken bones or other injuries; and
- revealing their partner controls their money and other assets.

Engaging with adult victim-survivors

Family violence screening is victim-survivor focused and enables practitioners to frame questions that will name the possibility of violence and attend to the safety of the client.

It is important that the client is interviewed in private and never in front of an alleged perpetrator. This is important to:

- ensure the client's safety; and
- enable the client to speak and disclose their experiences without fear of reprisals; and
- respect the client's right to privacy and confidentiality.

When English is not a victim-survivors first language, use a qualified interpreter or translator. Never use their partner, child or friend to interpret or translate. The National Translating and Interpreting service can be contacted on **131 450**.

Victim-survivors can find it difficult to disclose that they are experiencing family violence for a variety of reasons, including:

- fear of not being believed;
- shame attached to violence being committed by someone you love;
- feeling responsible for the violence;
- feeling different from their peers;
- judgmental attitudes displayed by workers;
- threats from the alleged offender to the victim-survivor and/or children; and
- concern for the future, especially for pregnant women or new mothers.

Questions you might ask an adult client if you suspect they are experiencing family violence:

- How are things at home?
- How are things between you and your partner?
- Is there anything else happening that might be affecting your health?
- Are there times when you are frightened of your partner?
- Are you concerned about your safety and the safety of your children?
- Does the way your partner treat you make you feel unhappy or depressed?

Specific questions linked to observations

- You seem very anxious. Is everything all right at home?
- When I see injuries like this, I wonder if someone could have hurt you?
- Is there anything else that we haven't talked about that might be contributing to this condition?

Engaging with children and young people

Family violence is a form of child abuse, whether children experience the violence directly or indirectly. It affects the safety, stability and development of unborn children, infants, children and young people, and causes developmental, neurological, relational, physical and emotional harm.

The level, nature and impact of this harm depends on children's individual experiences, their own needs and strengths, and on the care, support and healing opportunities they are offered by adults, including professionals in the service system.

Children who come into contact with the family violence system, or whose parents or caregivers do, require a response that directly engages with their needs, including their relationship to the perpetrator; familial context and circumstances; culture and identity; risk and trauma response; and their stage of development.

Questions you might ask children and young people if you suspect they are experiencing family violence:

- How are things at home?
- Who lives at home with you?
- Who in your family do you like to be with?
- When you feel worried, sad or scared, who in your family do you talk to?
- Do they help you?
- Is there anyone in your family you don't like to be with sometimes? Why?

Where there are immediate safety and risk concerns, call Tasmania Police on **000**.

Where there are safety, risk and wellbeing concerns for children, call the Strong Families, Safe Kids Advice and Referral Line on **1800 000 123**.

Engaging with perpetrators

Accountable responses to family violence prioritise the safety and wellbeing of victim-survivors and their children and holds perpetrators accountable for their use of violence.

In practice, an accountable service provides perpetrators with a clear and consistent message that family violence is harmful and that perpetrators are responsible for their violent behaviour.

Any engagement with a family violence perpetrator must be undertaken in such a way that others, including victim-survivors and children, are not put at risk.

The actions required will vary, according to the situation of family violence and the role of the responding service or organisation.

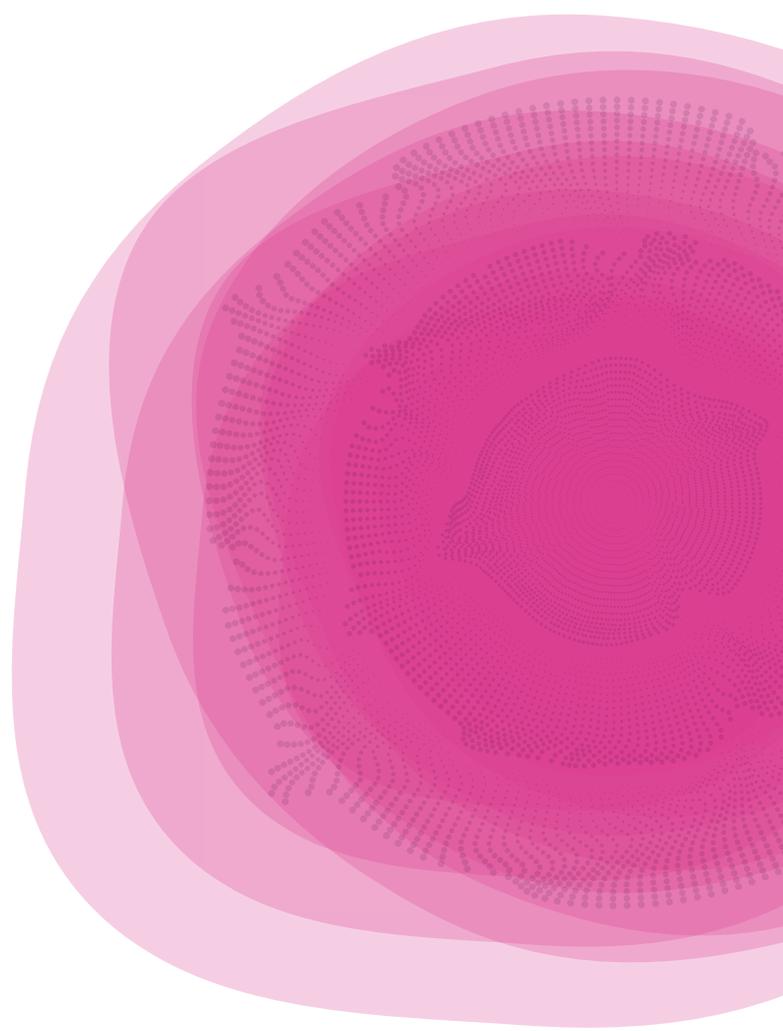
Actions should include:

- providing a clear message that any form of violence is unacceptable;
- not colluding with perpetrators who minimise, deny or blame others for their use of violence;
- providing referral to behaviour change interventions;
- reporting concerns about the safety of victim-survivors and children to Tasmania Police and the Child Safety Service; and
- continuing to monitor the perpetrator's use of violence.

Where there are immediate safety and risk concerns, call Tasmania Police on **000**.

Where there are safety, risk and wellbeing concerns for children, call the Strong Families, Safe Kids Advice and Referral Line on **1800 000 123**.

For counselling, information and referrals to help men stop using violent and controlling behaviour call the Men's Referral Service on **1300 766 491** (available 24/7).



RESPONDING TO DISCLOSURES

The response and support a person receives when they first disclose family or sexual violence is crucial.

Victim-survivors often give a lot of consideration to who they can trust, and who is likely to listen. If someone chooses to talk about their thoughts, feelings and choices with you, the most important thing is to listen without judgement. Be clear about what you are able to offer, and don't make commitments or promises that you cannot keep.

Where you can, provide information about other available relevant resources and supports, including specialist family and sexual violence services.

In response to disclosures of violence, it is critical that service providers and practitioners are non-judgemental and provide empathy and support.

In your contact with your client:

- uphold their right to be treated with dignity and respect their experiences;
- listen to them and believe what they tell you;
- acknowledge their strength and courage;
- recognise that harm was done to them;
- validate their feelings – pain, hurt, fear and anger are natural responses to trauma;
- do not blame the victim-survivor;
- do not make excuses or absolve the alleged perpetrator from responsibility;
- talk to the victim-survivor about your duty-of-care obligations and the limits to confidentiality;
- be sensitive to the particular needs of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people; people with disability; people from culturally and linguistically diverse backgrounds; and people of diverse gender and sexuality; and
- when English is not a victim-survivor's first language, use a qualified interpreter/ translator – do not use a partner, child or friend.

The most important principle is safety – is what I am doing making it safer for the person experiencing violence?

Specialist family and sexual violence services can provide advice and support to other service providers and professionals.

Where there are ongoing interactions with clients who have experienced family or sexual violence, it is important to work collaboratively with other service providers and be mindful of ongoing risk and safety issues.

Service providers must be clear about their areas of expertise and stay within the parameters of their role. If family or sexual violence does present in your work, this Practice Guide aims to enable you to make appropriate referrals to specialist services.

Accountability

Self-blame is a common reaction of victim-survivors, particularly in response to sexual assault. The victim-survivor may say or think things such as:

- 'Maybe I gave out the wrong signals'
- 'I shouldn't have gotten into that car'
- 'I shouldn't have gone there alone'
- 'I thought he/she was my friend'
- 'I shouldn't have gone back to them.'

Myths about family and sexual violence and attitudes that blame victims can add to the confusion and distress of victim-survivors. For example, 'she must have done something to encourage it' or 'Why didn't she just leave?'

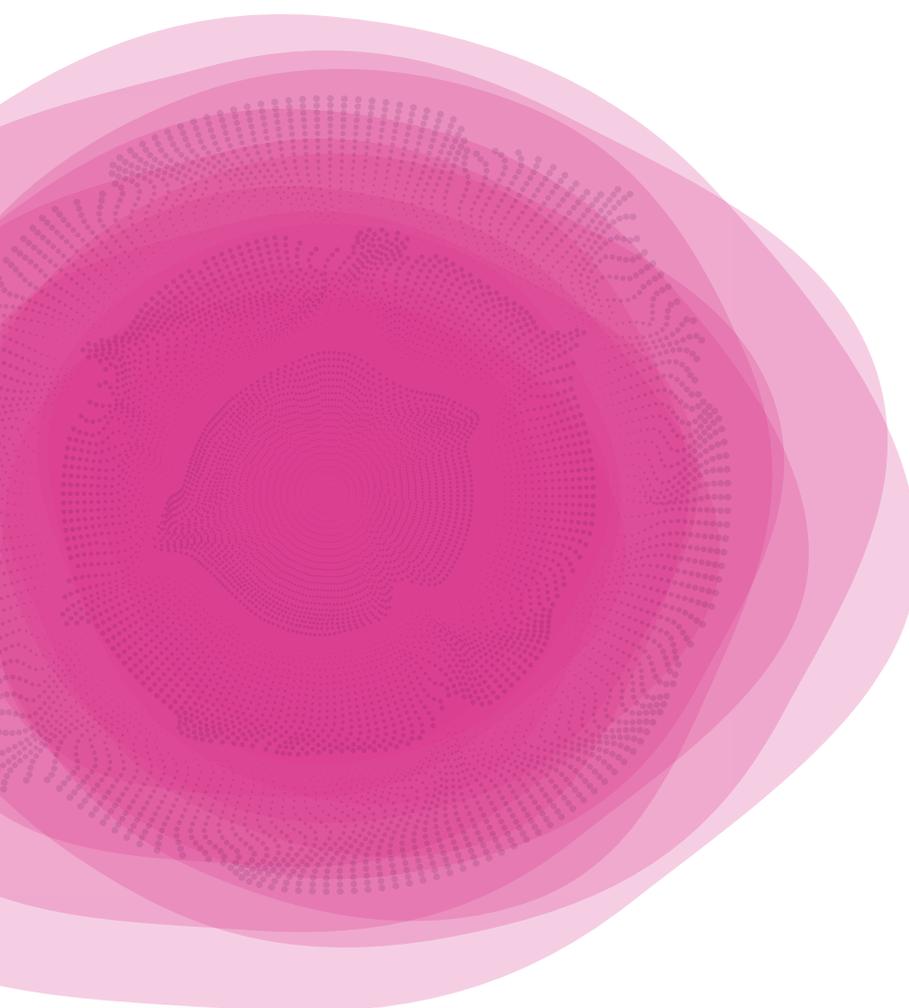
Family and sexual violence is never the victim-survivor's fault – responsibility lies with the person who chooses to use violence.

Empowering victim-survivors

It may be tempting to take charge and make decisions for someone who is in distress, but this should be avoided. Each person knows their own needs best. It is important to support the victim-survivor in the choices they make, including supporting them if they decide not to report the violence to the police. The exception is if someone is putting their own or another person's safety at risk.

Service providers and practitioners can provide an important role in helping a victim-survivor to regain a sense of safety and control over their life by allowing them to make their own decisions. This can include by:

- Offering options and making suggestions;
- Asking them what they need from you;
- Encouraging them to seek support from a specialist service; and
- Helping in practical ways such as making a referral.



SEEKING HELP, INFORMATION AND ADVICE

MAKING REFERRALS

A referral to a specialist or other support services is an important component of care. It is the process of making contact with, or providing information to, a service provider to access support on behalf of a victim-survivor, adult or child, or perpetrator.

Client referrals to specialist services should be made when:

- the victim-survivor, adult or child, is at risk if they stay in the current environment;
- medical assistance is required;
- they are suicidal or experiencing mental health issues;
- a criminal justice response is required;
- legal advice is required;
- counselling and support is required;
- specialist sexual assault support or medical assistance is required;
- the perpetrator requires help and support to stop using violence;
- other factors, such as alcohol and other drugs, are contributing to risk and compromising safety;
- appropriate cultural support is required;
- interpreter/translator services are needed;
- advocacy or practical support is required; and/or
- the client would like to understand more about their options, processes and/or possible outcomes.

Perpetrators

Referral is an important aspect of engaging perpetrators. The act of referring reinforces to the perpetrator that their violence is unacceptable and needs to stop. It also provides an opportunity to acknowledge that they will need support to change their behaviour, that change is possible and that support is available for them.

Referral to appropriate services can engage perpetrators in interventions that will address their use of violence and connects perpetrators with the support they will need to change their violent behaviour. Specialist family violence services can provide advice about appropriate perpetrator interventions and referral pathways (refer to pages 32-35).

Some forms of intervention are not safe in the context of family violence. It is not appropriate to refer perpetrators to couples counselling, mediation, family therapy or individual counselling that does not address their use of violence.

People who perpetrate violence often present at a range of mainstream services for concerns other than violence. They may have a range of complex needs, such as alcohol and other drug misuse, mental health concerns, unemployment, housing or parenting issues. A best-practice/appropriate service response will support perpetrators to address these needs, whilst continuing to hold them accountable for their use of violence.

Consent

Referrals should be made in consultation with the client, with their informed consent, except where there are immediate safety and risk concerns for the victim-survivor or others. In such situations, referral alone is not a sufficient response to secure the immediate safety of a victim-survivor.

Where there are immediate safety and risk concerns, call Tasmania Police on **000**.

Where there are safety, risk and wellbeing concerns, call the Family Violence Response and Referral Line on **1800 633 937** or the Statewide Sexual Assault Crisis Support Line on **1800 697 877**.

Where there are safety, risk and wellbeing concerns for children, call the Strong Families, Safe Kids Advice and Referral Line on **1800 000 123**.

Discussing options with clients

Referral should be guided by the victim-survivor's preferences and needs. They are the expert in their own situation.

The option for referral to appropriate services should be introduced with an explanation of:

- the purpose of referral;
- the information that will be shared to facilitate the referral;
- the possible outcome of referrals, including benefits and risks; and
- any response or actions that may be taken after referral.

Where a victim-survivor declines or is unwilling or unable to accept a referral to support services, this decision must be respected unless there are immediate risks to safety.

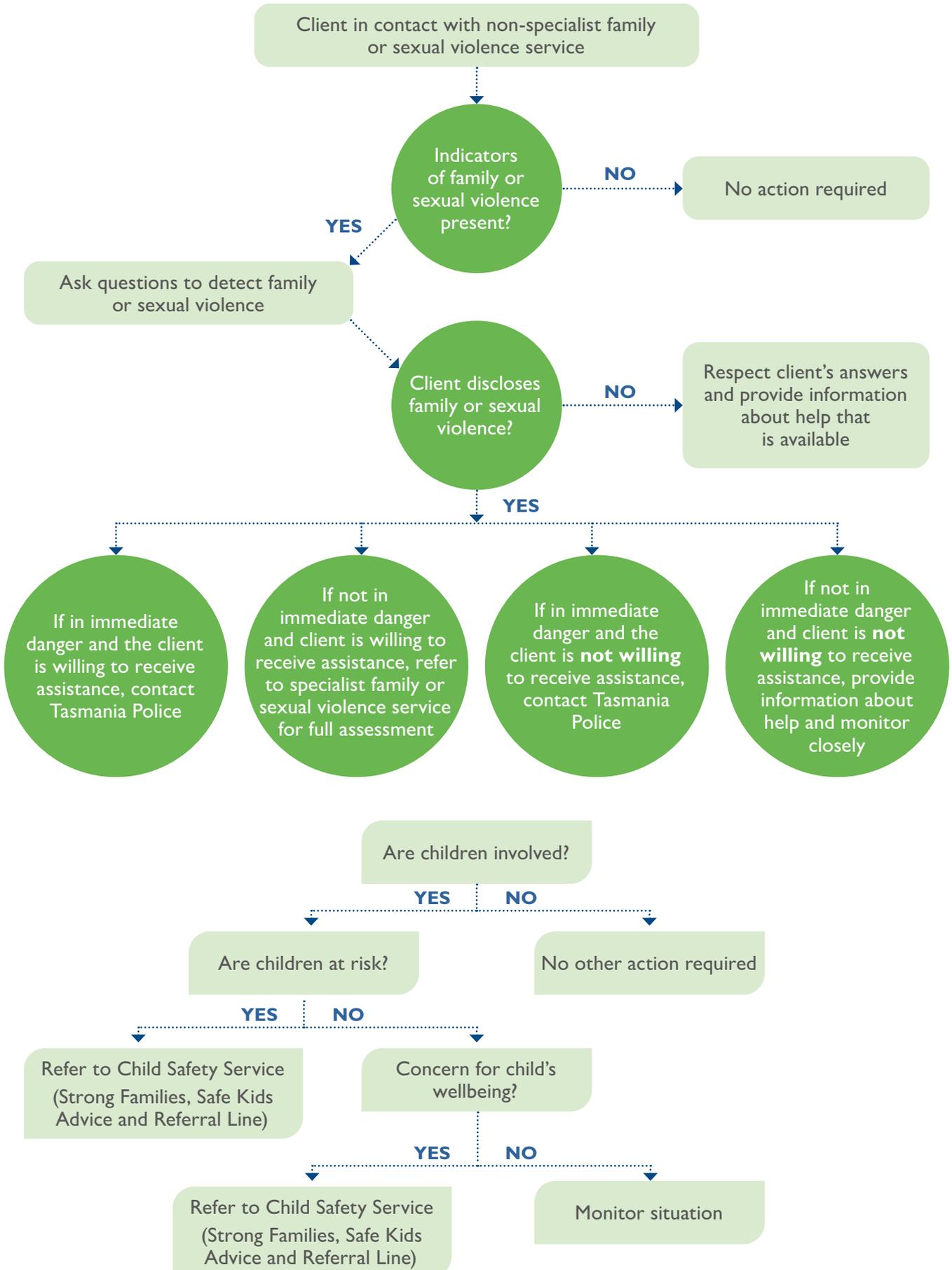
Victim-survivors may decline offers of assistance for a number of complex reasons, including concerns related to culture, religious beliefs, fear, finances, previous experiences with support agencies, fear about losing children or a combination of these and/or other factors.

In family violence situations, leaving a violent relationship is the time when a victim-survivor is most at risk of experiencing violence or for the violence to escalate.

If a victim-survivor indicates they do not want assistance:

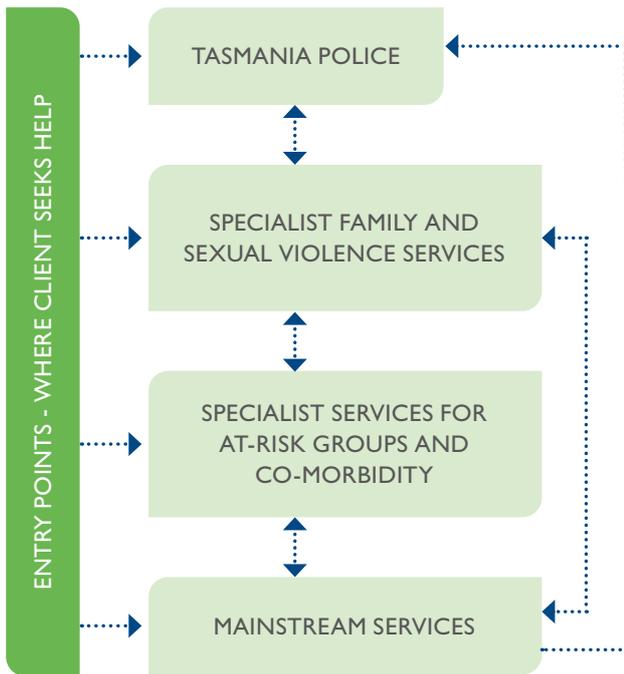
- provide them with written information and contact details for support services, where it is safe to do so;
- attempt to arrange ongoing opportunities to remain in contact with them and use these times to encourage a referral to appropriate support services; and
- determine an appropriate response to address the safety, risk and wellbeing of any children who are also experiencing violence. This may include a referral to the Child Safety Service through the Strong Families, Safe Kids Advice and Referral Line without the victim-survivor's consent. Concerns for the safety and wellbeing of any children should be discussed with the victim-survivor.

Figure 3: Referring clients impacted by family and/or sexual violence



ENTRY POINTS AND SERVICE PATHWAYS

Figure 4: Entry points and service pathways



Tasmania Police

Further information about what happens when Tasmania Police respond to a family violence incident is provided on page 25 and responses to sexual assault is provided on page 29.

All family violence incidents reported to Tasmania Police enter the Tasmanian Government’s Safe At Home system, which provides specialist support to victim-survivors, including children, and perpetrators. Refer to page 40 for more information about Safe At Home.

Specialist family and sexual violence services

Victim-survivors and perpetrators, as well as service providers and practitioners can access specialist services directly for support and/or advice.

Specialist family and sexual violence services may engage Tasmania Police in response to a client’s situation or circumstances.

See pages 32-35 for listings of specialist family and sexual violence services and services for perpetrators.

Specialist services for at-risk groups or co-morbidity services

Specialist services for at-risk groups or co-morbidity services may contact Tasmania Police on behalf of their client, or refer clients to specialist family violence services.

Specialist family and sexual violence services may contact other specialist services for at-risk groups or co-morbidity services seeking expert advice or specialist support for an at-risk client with specific needs cohort needs, for example, a woman with disability, or a client with a co-morbidity, for example, alcohol and other drugs.

See page 15 for information about at-risk groups and co-morbidity.

Mainstream services

Mainstream services may refer clients to other services to receive expert advice and specialist support. Specialist services may refer clients to mainstream services to access other support, for example, housing or legal support.

Tasmania Police response to family violence

Only police have the power and ability to intervene 24 hours a day, seven days a week and restore safety if an incident is occurring.

Under the *Family Violence Act 2004* (Tas), police have the power to enter premises, without a warrant, where they reasonably suspect that family violence has been or is likely to be committed, or at the request of a person who apparently lives at the premises.

Police will take all measures possible to ensure victim-survivors and children's welfare and safety are not compromised. They are also committed to ensuring that perpetrators are held accountable.

Upon entering premises, the police may conduct searches of both people and property, seize any object suspected to be used in family violence or make arrests.

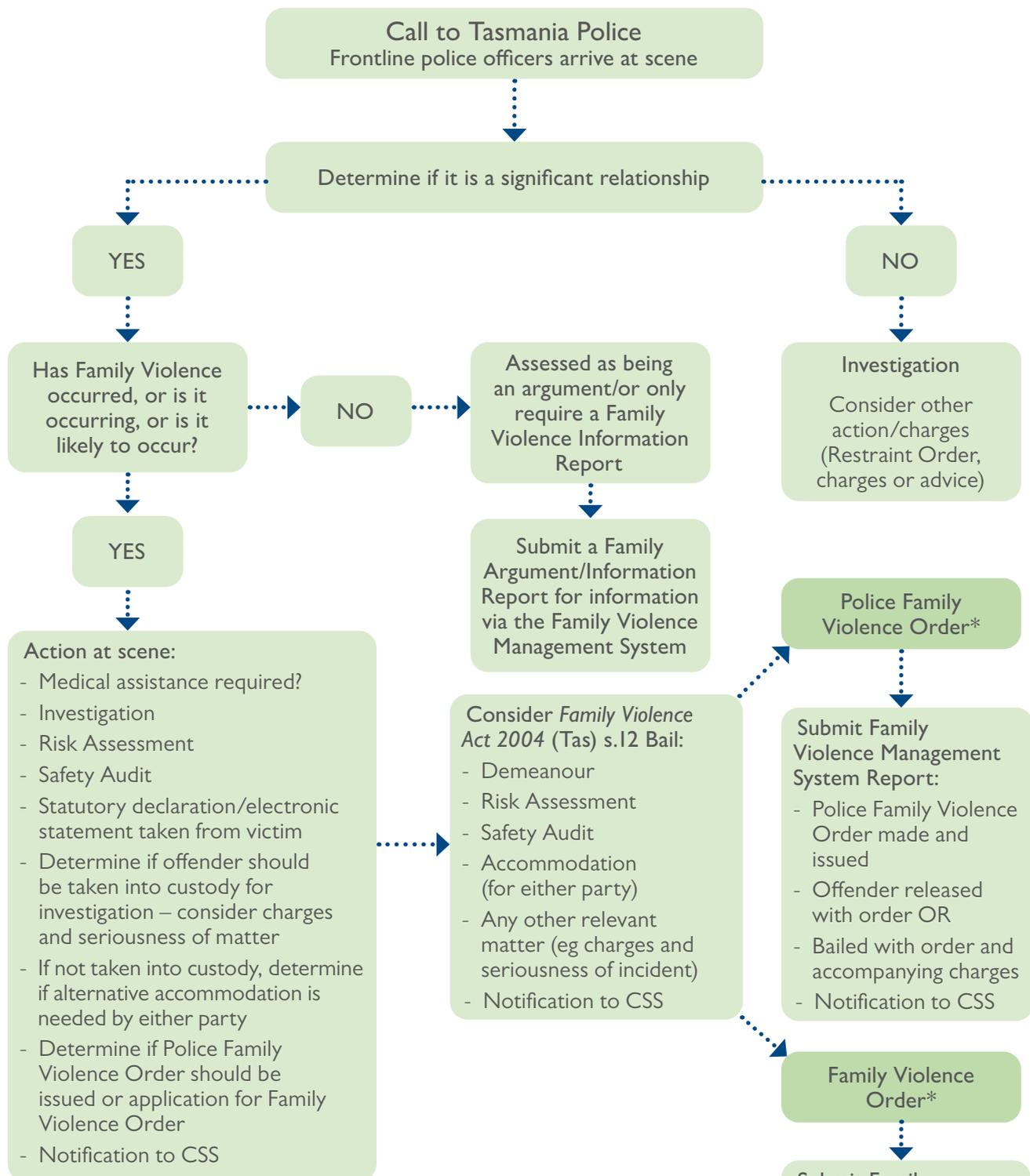
The police may arrest, without a warrant, any person suspected to have committed family violence. An arrested person may be detained for a reasonable period required to determine a charge or charges, carry out a risk assessment or safety audit, implement safety measures and make and serve a Police Family Violence Order (PFVO).

Where there are immediate safety and risk concerns, call Tasmania Police on **000**.

To report an incident of family violence, call your local Tasmania Police station on **131 444**. People with hearing impairments can call **TTY 106**.

You may also call the Safe at Home Family Violence Response and Referral Line on **1800 633 937**. An assessment will be made as to whether to provide a police response or transfer to appropriate services, such as the Family Violence Counselling and Support Service.

Figure 5: Tasmania Police response to family violence



*** PROTECTION ORDERS**

A Family Violence Order (FVO) is a court order that may restrict contact between people or impose conditions on their behaviour. It is made to protect a person from family violence and contains conditions that the court consider necessary or desirable to prevent family violence against an affected person or to protect any other person named in the order, such as a child.

A Police Family Violence Order (PFVO) can be issued 'on the spot' by a police officer, if the officer is satisfied that a person has committed, or is likely to commit, a family violence offence. the length of a Police Family Violence Order is 12 months.

National Domestic Violence Order Scheme

In November 2017, new laws came into force Australia-wide to improve the protection of family violence victim-survivors. In the past, domestic and family violence orders (Orders) only applied in the state or territory in which they were issued or registered. This has now changed.

The National Domestic Violence Order Scheme (NDVOS) enables an Order to be recognised and enforced Australia-wide, regardless of the state or territory in which it was issued or registered.

In Tasmania, the NDVOS applies to Family Violence Orders and Police Family Violence Orders, as well as New Zealand Orders registered in Tasmania.

All Orders made after 25 November 2017 are automatically issued as a nationally recognised Order. This means any police officer, in any state or territory, can access and enforce an Order; and any Court, in any state or territory, can prosecute for a breach of an Order, or vary or revoke an Order.

If an Order was made before 25 November 2017, applicants (victim-survivors) can apply to any Court to have it declared a nationally recognised Order. This is particularly relevant if they are planning to move or travel interstate.

If a variation to an Order is needed, applicants can apply to any Court to have it varied and the varied Order will automatically be recognised in all states and territories.

Further information, including information in a number of languages is available at www.ag.gov.au/ndvos.

Tasmania-specific information is available at <https://www.justice.tas.gov.au/national-domestic-violence-order-scheme>

If you have any questions, or require further support, contact a specialist legal service listed on pages 38.

RESPONSES TO SEXUAL ASSAULT

Specialist support services

Specialist sexual assault support services are available to provide information, counselling and support to victim-survivors, and to talk through options in more detail.

Specialist sexual violence support services in Tasmania are the Sexual Assault Support Service in the south and Laurel House in the north and north west. Service details are provided on page 34.

The Tasmanian Statewide Sexual Assault Crisis Support Line (**1800 697 877**) is available 24/7.

Services are available to support clients to:

- receive immediate medical attention and/ information without physical examination, for example, for emergency contraception or STD treatment;
- receive medical examination and/or a forensic medical examination, at hospitals in each region;
- make an informal report or formal statement to police;
- receive support through court processes and/or other legal processes;
- connect to other services they may need;
- receive crisis support including counselling appointments to provide brief interventions and coping strategies; and
- receive ongoing counselling, advocacy and/ or support.

Medical responses to sexual assault

it is important that victim-survivors of sexual assault seek medical assistance to treat any physical or psychological injuries, regardless of whether the assault was recent or occurred some time ago.

Victim-survivors of a recent sexual assault should be encouraged and supported to seek immediate medical assistance.

Medical care can involve dealing with the psychological impact of sexual assault, physical injuries, any concerns about pregnancy or sexually transmitted infections, and possible forensic examinations.

In Tasmania, dedicated teams of doctors and nursing staff at the Royal Hobart Hospital, Launceston General Hospital and the North West Regional Hospital provide medical examinations and forensic medical examinations to victim-survivors of recent sexual assault.

A forensic medical examination is a medical examination that can only be conducted by specially trained doctors and nurses. Its purpose is to collect any physical evidence that may be used as evidence if criminal charges are laid.

Forensic medical examinations will not be performed without the consent of a victim-survivor, who can choose to decline any part of the examination at any time.

Accessing medical care and undergoing a forensic examination does not mean that a victim-survivor has to report the assault to police or request further action. The decision whether or not to have a forensic medical examination lies solely with the victim-survivor.

Where a victim-survivor undergoes a forensic medical examination and chooses not report to police, the evidence collected will be stored securely for a minimum period of 12 months.

Ideally forensic examinations are performed within 72 hours of the sexual assault, but they can be performed up to a week later. The more time there is between the assault and the examination, the less likely it is that useful evidence will be found.

Children and young people affected by sexual assault and/or abuse may be seen by paediatricians where the alleged incident(s) occurred longer than a weekly prior. This is assessed on a case-by-case basis.

Tasmania Police response to sexual assault

Although sexual assault is a crime, the choice about whether to proceed with a formal complaint to the police always rests with an adult victim-survivor.

Victim-survivors may find it difficult to decide whether or not to report to the police.

Victim-survivors may report sexual assault:

- to make the offender accountable for their crime
- to seek justice
- to make police aware of an offender
- to protect themselves and/or others
- to make the community aware of the issue
- with support and encouragement from family, friends and support services
- to regain a sense to control.

Victim-survivors may not report sexual assault:

- think it will not make a difference
- fear of not being believed
- fear of the offender
- to protect the offender
- fear of the police
- shame and embarrassment
- self-blame
- not wanting others to know about the sexual assault
- fear of having to go to court and facing the offender
- fear of reliving the sexual assault through the court process
- fear of hostile treatment in the justice system.

There is the option to make a formal report to police which opens an investigation, or to make an informal report and request that no further action be taken.

Victim-survivors are not required to report to police immediately after a sexual assault. However, the advantage of making a report soon after an incident is that it is easier for police to gather evidence, investigate and charge the offender.

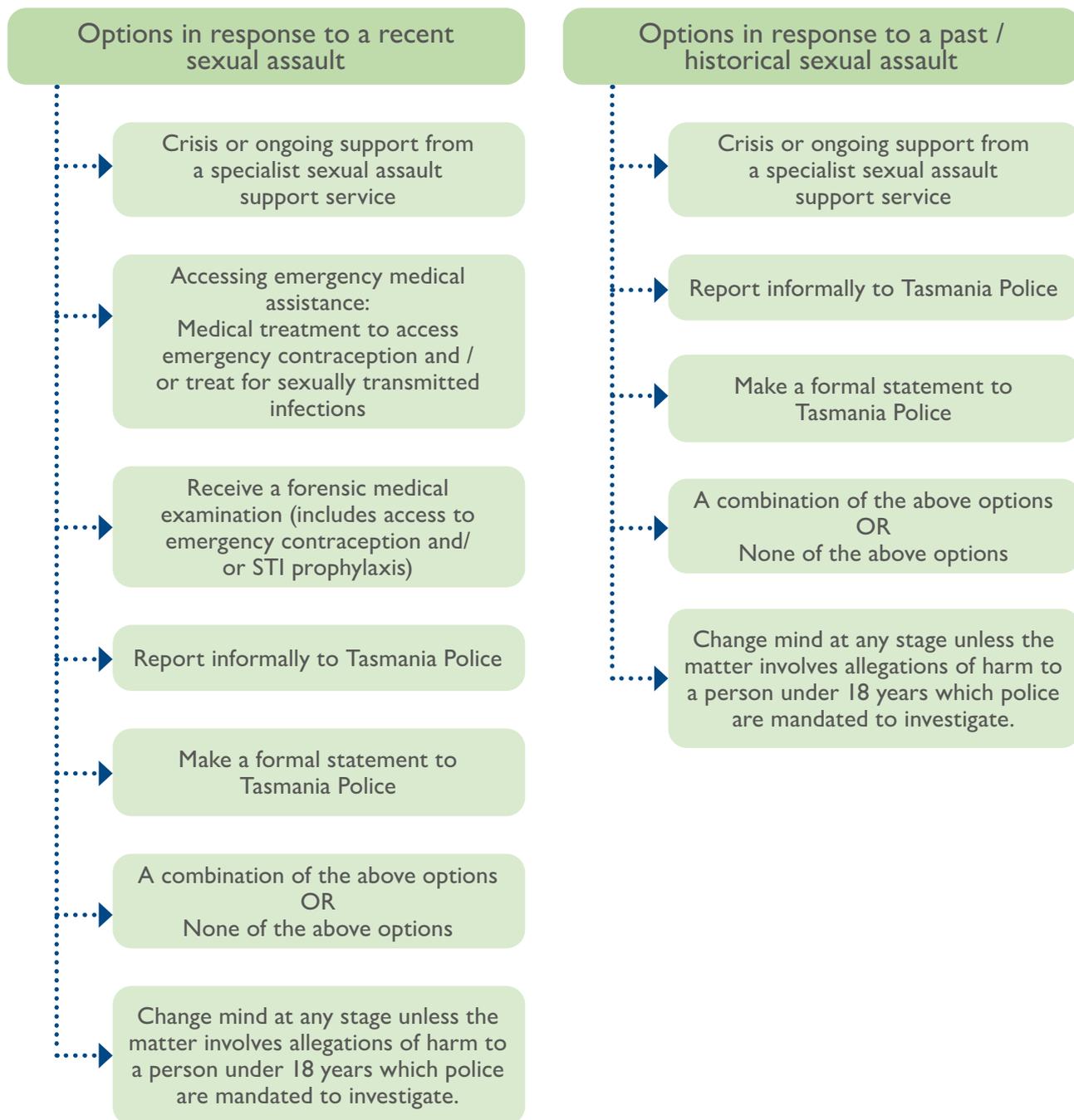
There are no time limits for reporting sexual assault to police. Survivors of childhood sexual assault may report years after the abuse has been perpetrated.

Tasmania Police are responsible for the detection of crime. They do this by investigating reported crime and gathering evidence from victim-survivors, witnesses, suspects, offenders and other physical and/or scientific sources.

The Criminal Investigations Branch and/or Victim Crime Unit senior officers undertake sexual assault investigations.

Victim-survivors whose case is being investigated by police have the right to be informed if the charges are dropped or reduced and to be given reasons for the decision; to be informed, upon request, about the progress of the case; and to have a support person in court.

Figure 6: Response options for sexual assault



SERVICES DIRECTORY

The following services and organisations can provide support, including specialist family and sexual violence advice to assist you and/or your client.

Services can be accessed directly by clients or by service providers and practitioners on behalf of their clients.

An online Services Directory is available at www.safefromviolence.tas.gov.au.

24 HOUR HELPLINES (NATIONAL AND STATEWIDE)

Triple Zero	000
Tasmania Police (Local Station for non-emergency)	131 444
Safe at Home Family Violence Response and Referral Line www.safeathome.tas.gov.au	1800 633 937
Statewide Sexual Assault Crisis Support Line	1800 697 877
1800RESPECT www.1800respect.org.au	1800 737 732
Men's Referral Service www.ntv.org.au	1300 766 491
MensLine Australia www.mensline.org.au	1300 789 978
Lifeline www.lifeline.org.au	131 114
Beyondblue www.beyondblue.org.au	1300 224 636
Suicide Call Back Service www.suicidecallbackservice.org.au	1300 659 467
Kids Helpline www.kidshelpline.com.au	1800 551 800
Translating and Interpreting Service www.tisnational.gov.au	131 450
National Relay Service Help desk – Monday to Friday, 8am to 6pm	1800 555 660
TTY number (24 hours)	133 677
Voice relay number (24 hours)	1300 555 727
SMS relay (24 hours)	0423 677 767

FAMILY VIOLENCE COUNSELLING AND SUPPORT SERVICES

Safe at Home Family Violence Response and Referral Line

STATEWIDE

Connects to family violence services, including counselling. Note after-hours calls are directed to Tasmania Police. Available 24 hours/7 days

1800 633 937

www.safeathome.tas.gov.au

Family Violence Counselling and Support Service

STATEWIDE

Service for children, young people and adults affected by family violence

Monday to Friday: 9am - midnight

1800 608 122

Weekends and public holidays: 4pm - midnight

www.communities.tas.gov.au/children/family_violence_counselling_and_support_services

Engender Equality

STATEWIDE

Service for people affected by family violence

03 6278 9090

Monday to Friday: 9am - 5pm. Out of hours by appointment

www.engenderequality.org.au

Safe Choices

STATEWIDE

Provides practical support and information for people affected by family violence

1800 806 189

Monday to Friday: 9am - 5pm

www.safechoicestas.org.au

Australian Childhood Foundation

STATEWIDE

Service for children and young people aged 17 years or younger

1300 381 581

Monday to Friday: 9am - 5pm

www.childhood.org.au

Yemaya Women's Support Service

NORTH

Service for women aged 16 years and over

03 6334 0305

Monday to Friday: 9am - 5pm

Anglicare (Relationship Abuse of an Intimate Nature)

NORTH WEST

(Outreach available to West Coast, Circular Head and King Island)

Service for children, young people and adults

1800 243 232

Monday to Friday: 9am - 5pm

www.anglicare-tas.org.au/service/relationship-abuse-intimate-nature/service-details

FAMILY VIOLENCE COUNSELLING AND SUPPORT SERVICES (CONTINUED)

Huon Domestic Violence Service

SOUTH

Service for children, young people and adults affected by family violence in the Huon Valley

03 6264 2222

Monday to Friday: 9am - 4.30pm

www.huondomesticviolence.com.au

Strong Families, Safe Kids Advice and Referral Line

STATEWIDE

The Strong Families, Safe Kids Advice and Referral Line is the first point of contact for child wellbeing and safety. It provides information, advice and assistance. The Advice and Referral Line is available for everyone with a concern about the safety and wellbeing of a child, Mandatory Reporters, concerned relatives, friends or neighbours. Parents and children can also call to ask for help for themselves.

1800 000 123

Monday to Friday, 8:30am - 5pm

www.strongfamiliesafekids.tas.gov.au

1800RESPECT

NATIONAL

National sexual assault, domestic, family violence counselling service

1800 737 732

Available 24 hours/7 days

www.1800respect.org.au

Daisy App

NATIONAL

Provides information and connects to local services

Download Daisy for free from the App Store or Google Play

www.1800respect.org.au/daisy

Sunny App

NATIONAL

Designed by and for women with disability

Download Sunny for free from the App Store or Google Play

www.1800respect.org.au/sunny

SEXUAL VIOLENCE COUNSELLING AND SUPPORT SERVICES

Statewide Sexual Assault Crisis Support Line (1800 MYSUPPORT)

STATEWIDE

Crisis support service for recent sexual assaults

Available 24 hours/7 days

1800 697 877

1800RESPECT

NATIONAL

National sexual assault, domestic, family violence counselling service

Available 24 hours/7 days

www.1800respect.org.au

1800 737 732

Sexual Assault Support Service

SOUTH

Service for people of all ages who have been affected by any form of sexual violence

Monday to Friday, 9am - 5pm

www.sass.org.au

03 6231 0044

Laurel House

NORTH

Sexual assault service assisting victim-survivors, their families and support people

Monday to Friday, 9am - 5pm

www.laurelhouse.org.au

03 6334 2740

Laurel House

NORTH WEST

Sexual assault service assisting victim-survivors, their families and support people

Monday to Friday, 9am - 5pm

www.laurelhouse.org.au

03 6431 9711

BEHAVIOUR CHANGE AND PERPETRATOR SUPPORT SERVICES

Men's Referral Service

STATEWIDE

Service for men who use family violence that supports them to change their abusive and violent behaviour

1300 766 491

Available 24 hours a day, 7 days a week

www.mrs.org.au

MensLine Australia

NATIONAL

Telephone and online support, information and referral service for men with family and relationship concerns

1300 789 978

Available 24 hours a day, 7 days a week

www.mensline.org.au

Defendant Health Liaison Service

STATEWIDE

Service for people who have been involved in a family violence incident and have been issued with a PFVO or FVO

0419 009 628

South

0400 066 169

North and North-West

Men Engaging New Strategies (MENS) Program

Relationships Australia Tasmania

STATEWIDE

Program for medium risk family violence offenders

1300 364 277

www.tas.relationships.org.au

HOUSING AND EMERGENCY ACCOMMODATION SERVICES

Housing Connect

STATEWIDE

Monday to Friday: 9am - 5pm

1800 800 588

www.communities.tas.gov.au/housing/housing-connect

Northern Tasmanian housing and emergency accommodation services

Karinya Young Women's Refuge
NORTH
Young women aged 13 to 20 years
www.kyws.org.au

03 6331 0774
(Monday to Friday,
9am - 5pm)
1800 800 588
(After hours)

Launceston Women's Shelter (Magnolia Place)
NORTH
Women and women with children
www.lws.org.au/index.htm

03 6344 5322

Orana House
NORTH
Adult men
www.citymission.org.au/find-a-service/crisis-accommodation

03 6335 3000

YouthFutures
NORTH
Young males aged 13 to 20 years
www.youthfutures.org.au/accommodation

03 6331 6622

North West Tasmanian housing and emergency accommodation services

Oakleigh Accommodation Services House (Salvation Army)
NORTH WEST
Men, women and women with children
www.salvationarmy.org.au/en/Find-Us/Tasmania/ServicesI/Housing--Homeless/

03 6430 4121

Warrawee
NORTH WEST
Women and women with children
www.warraweewomensshelter.com.au

03 6425 1382

Wyndarra
NORTH WEST
Families and individuals
www.wyndarra.org.au

03 6452 2722

Youth, Family and Community Connections
NORTH WEST
Young males and females aged 13 to 20 years
www.yfcc.com.au

03 6423 6635

Southern Tasmanian housing and emergency accommodation services

Annie Kenney Young Women's Emergency Accommodation Service

SOUTH

Young women between 13 and 20 years old

www.catholicaretas.org.au/ak-youngwomen-semergency-accommodation/

03 6272 7751

0418 134 221

Bethlehem House

SOUTH

Adult men

www.bethlehemhouse.org.au

03 6234 4594

Hobart Women's Shelter

SOUTH

Women and women with children

www.hobartws.org.au

03 6273 8455

Jireh House

SOUTH

Women and women with children

www.jirehhouse.org.au

03 6232 3850

Launch Youth

SOUTH

Young males aged 13 to 20 years

pathwaystas.org.au/index.php/launch-youth

03 6224 3090

Mara House (Colony 47)

SOUTH

Young women aged 13 to 20 years

www.colony47.com.au/housing-homelessness/mara-house/

03 6231 2782

0418 315 027

1800 265 669

McCombe House (Salvation Army)

SOUTH

Women and women with children

www.salvationarmy.org.au

1800 005 576

Youthcare (Anglicare Tas)

SOUTH

Young men aged 13 to 20 years

<https://www.anglicare-tas.org.au/service/youthcare>

1800 243 232

03 6273 9215

LEGAL ADVICE AND SUPPORT SERVICES

Legal Aid Tasmania

STATEWIDE

1300 366 611

Monday to Friday: 9am - 5pm

Tasmanian Aboriginal Community Legal Service

STATEWIDE

1800 064 865

Legal services for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people

Monday to Friday: 9am - 5pm

Women's Legal Service Tasmania

STATEWIDE

1800 682 468

Legal services for women

Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, Friday: 10.00am - 12.30pm
and 1.30pm-3.30pm

Wednesday: 2.00pm to 4.00pm

womenslegaltas.org.au/

03 6419 7050

*North-West Family
Violence Unit*

03 6349 1943

*North/ North-East
Family Violence Unit*

Court Support and Liaison Service

STATEWIDE

1300 663 773

Service for adult and child victim-survivors of family violence

www.justice.tas.gov.au/victims/court_support

Hobart Community Legal Service

SOUTH

03 6223 2500

Hobart Office:

Hobart

Monday to Thursday: 9am - 5pm Friday: 9am - 1pm

03 6265 1911

Sorell and Bridgewater Offices:

Sorell

Tuesday to Friday: 9.30am - 12.30pm

03 6263 4755

www.hobartlegal.org.au/

Bridgewater

Launceston Community Legal Service

NORTH

1800 066 019

<http://www.lclc.net.au/>

North West Community Legal Service

NORTH WEST

03 6424 8720

www.nwclc.org.au

FURTHER INFORMATION AND RESOURCES

For more information and resources visit www.safefromviolence.tas.gov.au

Useful links

1800RESPECT

www.1800respect.org.au

Australia's National Research Organisation for Women's Safety

www.anrows.org.au

Blue Knot Foundation

www.blueknot.org.au/Survivor/support

DV-Alert

www.dvalert.org.au

eSafety Commissioner

www.esafety.gov.au

National Plan to Reduce Violence Against Women and their Children 2010-2022

www.plan4womenssafety.dss.gov.au

Our Watch

www.ourwatch.org.au

Safe At Home

www.safeathome.tas.gov.au

Stop It At The Start – the National Campaign

www.respect.gov.au

Strong Families, Safe Kids

www.strongfamiliesafekids.tas.gov.au

WESNET (Women's Essential Services Network)

www.wesnet.org.au

TASMANIA'S FAMILY AND SEXUAL VIOLENCE POLICY FRAMEWORK

SAFE AT HOME

Safe at Home is the Tasmanian Government's integrated criminal justice response to family violence. It is founded on the principle of the 'primacy of the safety of the victim-survivor' and uses a pro-arrest, pro-prosecution strategy to realise this principle.

The Safe at Home service system is underpinned by the *Family Violence Act 2004* (Tas), operated in partnership by the Departments of Justice; Police, Fire and Emergency Management; Communities Tasmania; Education and Health.

The objectives of Safe at Home are to:

- improve the safety and security for adult and child victim-survivors of family violence in the short and long term;
- ensure that perpetrators are held accountable for family violence as a crime and change their offending behaviour;
- reduce the incidence and severity of family violence in the longer term; and
- minimise the negative impacts of contact with the criminal justice system on adult and child victim-survivors.

More information is available at www.safeathome.tas.gov.au.

Integrated Case Coordination

A key feature of the Safe at Home service response is integrated case coordination (ICC). ICC was introduced in recognition of the fact that no one service can manage all of the risk and safety issues associated with a Safe at Home case. ICC is a systematic and holistic approach to coordinating interventions to address the risk and safety needs of Safe at Home clients across professional and agency boundaries. It aims to maximise the efficient use of available resources in order to produce better outcomes for clients through 'seamless' service delivery.

ICC Process

Each week, ICC meetings are held in all four police districts (north, south, east and west) to review all family violence incidents (cases) in the region over the past week.

Case coordinators are appointed for each case, based on the needs of the victim-survivors and perpetrators involved. A review process is established to ensure efficient ongoing management of the case.

SAFE HOMES, FAMILIES, COMMUNITIES: TASMANIA'S ACTION PLAN FOR FAMILY AND SEXUAL VIOLENCE 2019-2022

Safe Homes, Families, Communities: Tasmania's action plan for family and sexual violence 2019-2022 (Safe Homes, Families, Communities) is the Tasmanian Government's, coordinated, whole-of-government action plan to respond to family and sexual violence.

Safe Homes, Families, Communities represents the next stage of the Government's long-term commitment to preventing and responding to family violence, and the new response to sexual violence.

Safe Homes, Families, Communities invests \$26 million over three years for 40 actions to prevent and respond to family and sexual violence in Tasmania under three priority areas:

1. Primary prevention and early intervention
2. Response and recovery
3. Strengthening the service system.

Priorities for new actions were identified through the comprehensive, cross-agency, Family Violence Service System Review undertaken in 2018-19, which included stakeholder and community consultation. Actions to address sexual violence were informed by comprehensive research; examination of the existing service system in Tasmania; analysis of best-practice systems operating in other jurisdictions; and targeted consultation with key stakeholders.

More information is available at www.safefromviolence.tas.gov.au

NATIONAL PLAN TO REDUCE VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN AND THEIR CHILDREN 2010-2022

Tasmania is a signatory to the *National Plan to Reduce Violence against Women and their Children 2010-2022* (the National Plan), which was endorsed by the Council of Australian Governments (COAG) and released in February 2011.

The National Plan is a 12-year strategy that brings together the efforts of all Australian governments, together with the non-government sector, businesses and community to make a significant and sustained reduction in violence against women and their children. It drives an integrated approach to preventing and responding to domestic, family and sexual violence.

More information is available at www.plan4womenssafety.dss.gov.au



Email: fsvap@communities.tas.gov.au | Visit: www.safefromviolence.tas.gov.au