

Mandatory Reporting Requirements under the Domestic and Family Violence Act

Under the [Domestic and Family Violence Act](#)

All adults (people over the age of 18 years) in the NT are mandated to make a report to the Police if they believe on reasonable grounds that:

- a person has caused or is likely to cause serious physical harm to someone with whom that person is in a domestic/family relationship; and/or
- a person's life or safety is under serious or imminent threat because domestic/family violence has happened, is happening or is about to happen.

If a person has either or both of these beliefs, they **must** as soon as practicable make a report to Police. The report should include any knowledge, or factual circumstance on which the knowledge is based, that leads to the belief that domestic/family violence has occurred (e.g. what the person saw, heard or what they were told by someone else).

Early notification may result in a person and/or family receiving the help and support needed to prevent further violence.

It is acknowledged that domestic/family violence is often a hidden crime and is neither easy nor straightforward. Staff should consult with the Duty Rural Medical Practitioner / General Practitioner and/or relevant Manager if they are unsure, or err on the side of caution and contact the Police.

How to make a report?

1. When an Urgent Response is required:

For events requiring an emergency response staff must contact the Police on **000**.

Police will assess the matter on the information provided, and respond appropriately.

2. Non-Urgent Response:

When an emergency response is not required staff must contact the Police on 131 444 or contact their local Police station to make a report.

Reports of domestic / family violence where an immediate response may not be required will be recorded and referred to other members within Police for further investigation. Depending on the nature and location of the incident, the investigation may be conducted by General Duties, Family Violence Unit or Investigation Police Officers.

What about safety?

Under the Domestic and Family Violence Act a report to Police may be delayed where a person:

- is involved in planning for the removal of the victim and intended to report the event as soon as practicable after the victim's removal; or
- reasonably believes that making a report now may result in a serious or imminent threat to the life or safety of **any** person, for example the client, colleagues or personal safety.

This reporting is mandatory and needs to be made to the Police, but this may be delayed until it is safe to do so.

If you reasonably believe that someone else has already made a report to the Police, you are not required to do so. However, **your** information could contribute crucial additional details about the situation and assist Police in assessing the circumstances.

See: [Domestic & Family Violence](#) detailed information.