



SUPPORT FOR VICTIM/SURVIVORS OF FAMILY VIOLENCE

SUPPORT

Supporting victims/survivors of family violence can feel overwhelming. Within community sport settings the scope of roles and the expectations of staff and volunteers are often complex. We hope that these guidelines help associations and clubs to feel more confident to support families affected by family violence. Each experience and situation is different and involves unique considerations that may affect the support a family needs. As such, this document should be read as a guide only and support should be sought from either Basketball Victoria or the services below as needed.

In line with the Victorian Child Safety Standards, all sporting clubs in Victoria must ensure that policies and practices support children and their families to be able to attend sports in a safe and supportive environment. This means that when parents or families disclose personal safety concerns that relate to their child's involvement in basketball you must address these concerns, while staying within the scope of your role.

Please reach out to Basketball Victoria's Child Safety Adviser if you have any questions or to discuss the most appropriate way to support families. Any support offered to families must fall within the scope and limits of your role.

1800RESPECT provides free information and resources for people who support families impacted by family violence. For support and advice, you can contact 1800RESPECT by calling 1800 737 732.

DISCLOSURES

When you are speaking to victim/survivors it is important that you stay calm and reassure the person that you can refer them to appropriate, professional services if required. Explain what you can and cannot do within your role as an administrator in sport and reassure the person that there are things you can put in place to help them and their children to feel safe while they are at basketball.

Reassure the person that the information they are discussing will be kept confidential and only disclosed on a need-to-know basis to key personnel within basketball, or to police or child protection as legally required.

If you are worried about the safety of a child, or if you believe that a child is at risk of abuse, please follow the steps outlined in the Reporting Suspected Child Abuse Flow Chart at the end of this document.

It can feel confronting and overwhelming when someone discloses to you that they are experiencing family violence. Please remember that self-care is important when you are in a situation where you are supporting others.

MAKING REFERRALS

There are professional services that are dedicated to supporting victim/survivors of family violence. This includes developing safety plans and providing counseling and ongoing support too. Please offer the contact details of these services to families whenever a disclosure is made.



Safe Steps: Safe Steps provide specialist support services for anyone in Victoria who is experiencing or afraid of family violence. **PHONE: 1800 015 188**



1800RESPECT: 1800RESPECT provides confidential information, counselling and support services for people who are experiencing family violence. **PHONE: 1800 737 732**

SUPPORT CLUBS AND ASSOCIATIONS CAN PROVIDE TO FAMILIES OR INDIVIDUALS

Unless otherwise stated in a court order or IVO, or there is a Basketball venue ban in place preventing an individual from attending stadiums, parents should usually be allowed to watch their children participate.

In circumstances where one parent or caregiver discloses that they or their child feels unsafe with their child's other parent attending basketball, you should work with the parent to put reasonable measures in place to support the victim/survivor and their children to feel as safe as possible while at games and training.

Reasonable measures may include:

- Providing a safe place that the victim/survivor can go if they feel unsafe while at the venue (for example, the office or canteen)
- Providing the details of the best contact person, including their name, phone number and/or email.
- Having a meeting to discuss any safety concerns, any court orders and what they may mean for individuals while attending basketball, and ways in which the association or club can support the family. If there are court orders in place that protect or restrict a person having contact or knowing information about a child, it is reasonable for you to ask for copies of these orders in case the other parent contacts asking for information about their child.
- If both parents have shared care arrangements any meeting may include discussing safe ways that both parents can stay informed and involved in their child's sport. Please note that these meetings will need to be held separately for each parent where there is a history of family violence or one parent feels unsafe attending the same meeting.
- In shared care situations where one parent does not feel comfortable or consent to be in a group message or having their contact details disclosed for safety reasons, reasonable steps need to be made to ensure both parents are kept informed about their child's participation in basketball. This may mean that messages about training, games and other relevant information will need to be sent separately and not within the team group.

INTERVENTION AND OTHER COURT ORDERS

- If a victim/survivor is requesting specific actions or support in line with the requirements of an IVO or court order, it is OK and reasonable to ask for a copy of the relevant documents. Support can still be given to individuals where no IVO or other court order is in place, but any support offered must be cognizant of factors such as shared parenting arrangements and any other relevant considerations.
- It is not the responsibility of the club or association to contact police if an IVO or other court order is breached. The protected person should be told where they can safely contact police if required and where they can safely wait in the event police need to be called (for example, the office or canteen where venue or association staff are present).
- Please note that in circumstances where a child is the protected person, or where there are court orders in place (including a child being involved in child protection), there may be legal restrictions preventing photos and other images, including video footage, being published on social media or any other public platform.

- Ensure that personal information is kept confidential and only disclosed to the relevant people within the association or club who are directly involved in handling the situation. Please ensure that any written documentation is kept in a secure place and that people's personal information is never shared or discussed in ways that could breach individuals privacy or safety. This includes any information that may need to be disclosed to coaches and team managers for the safety of the child and family involved. This should always be discussed with the protected person (or their parent/caregiver) so that they are aware of what information you are sharing and with who. The only time that it may not be appropriate to discuss the sharing of information with the effected parties is where a police or child protection referral is required. Please see the Reporting Suspected Child Abuse Flow Chart at the end of this document.

By following these guidelines and accessing support as required, it is hoped that clubs and associations can continue to create safe and supportive environments for children and their families.

REPORTING SUSPECTED CHILD ABUSE

As an adult involved in basketball, you play a vital role in protecting children and young people from abuse and harm.

If you suspect, on reasonable grounds, that a child or young person has been abused or is at risk of abuse, you must follow the steps below to report your concern.

Abuse is any conduct that includes 'Child Abuse' (physical, sexual, emotional or psychological, neglect, exposure to family violence), 'Grooming', 'Supply of alcohol or drugs'.

