

Family Violence Intervention Orders for Children and Young Adults:

Stage 2 – Participation in Court Proceedings

Talking to us (consultation)



We want to hear from you

We want to know if you think the law should change and why or why not. If you have ideas about how to make the law better, we would like you to tell us about them.



Who do we want to hear from?

We want to hear from young people who have been through the FVIO process. Maybe you asked for a FVIO for yourself. Maybe someone else got one for you. Maybe you took part in court. Maybe you wanted to, but it did not work out the way you hoped.

We also want to hear from young people who have been to court in other ways. We also want to hear from people who have supported children or young people with a FVIO.

What you tell us helps us understand how FVIOs are working right now. It helps us work out if things could be changed to make the system better for children and young people.



How can you talk to us?

We hold meetings to listen to what people think. They are called consultations. You meet with people who work for the Commission. It takes about an hour.

You can meet with us online or come to our office in Melbourne. If you are over 15, you can come alone. You can also bring a support person. This is an adult you trust who helps you feel comfortable when you are talking to us. If you are under 15, you need to come with an adult who looks after you (a parent or carer).

If you do not want to have a consultation, you can answer some questions on an online form instead. You can have a support person help you write down your answers. We can tell you about this if you email: FVIOs.children@lawreform.vic.gov.au.



Before you talk to us

We will send you the questions that we want to ask you. This helps you know what we are going to talk about. You can think about what you want to say but you don't have to prepare anything.

We will also tell you who you will meet and how to get there. You can tell us if there is something you want to make it easier to talk to us.





When you talk to us

You will meet with 2 or 3 people who work here. We will ask you the questions we sent you. You don't have to answer all of them. You can also take breaks or stop the meeting any time you want. You can decide you don't want to take part anymore. This is okay.

Someone in the meeting will take notes so we can remember everything you said.

Sometimes we record meetings using Microsoft Teams' AI (Artificial Intelligence) transcription. This helps us make sure we remember everything you tell us. We will only do this if you say yes.

We will talk to you about this before the meeting and give you more information so you can decide. If you say no, we will not use it.



After you talk to us

We will send you the notes we took. You can change things you said, add things or take things out. If you forgot to tell us something you can add it to the notes too. We will ask you to tell us when you are happy with what the notes say. You can email: FVIOS.children@lawreform.vic.gov.au to do this.

We will also tell you about some people you can talk to if you found consultation hard and you want to talk about how you feel. We have set up a special support service with Australian Childhood Foundation. We can help you make an appointment with a Therapeutic Specialist who works there.



If you change your mind

If you decide you don't want to take part anymore, you can tell us. You can do this before you have met with us, during the meeting, or after we have talked to you. We will cancel the meeting and destroy any notes we took.

You can do this by emailing:
FVIOS.children@lawreform.vic.gov.au.

We will tell you when the report is going to be published. After it is published, we can't change or take anything out.



Your privacy

Once you have told us you are happy with the notes we took, we use these for our work. They help us understand what the FVIO system is like for children and young people now and if the law should change.

Your notes and your story are confidential. This means we will not tell anyone outside the Commission that you spoke to us or what you said. We follow privacy laws and make sure your notes are kept safe and private.



Telling your story

If you give us permission, we might use some of what you told us in the reports we write. This helps people understand what the law is like for children and young people. We will always ask you first.

If you say yes, we will show you what we want to put in the report and make sure you say it is okay. We will never use your real name.

If you say no, this is okay too. We will not use your story in our reports.

Even if we don't put your story in our report, it still matters to us. It helps us understand how the law is working and make suggestions about how it could be made better.



What happens next?

After we have talked to you and other people, we do more research. We write a report which says what people told us and our ideas about how the law could change.

We give this report to the Attorney-General (the person in the government who is in charge of the law). We also put it on our website so everyone else can read it too.

We expect to finish our report in mid-2027. We will tell you when it is coming out.

Find more information about how we consult the community on our [website](#) or scan the QR code.

