



What this statutory declaration is about

Domestic violence is a crime and is unacceptable in Australia. If you are in Australia and you have applied as a partner for certain permanent residence visas, you (and any dependent included in your application) do not have to remain in an abusive relationship just to get permanent residence.

This statutory declaration relates to the domestic violence provision of the Migration Regulations 1994 (the Regulations). The domestic violence provision allows you (or a dependent family member), as a person who has been a victim of relevant domestic violence committed by your spouse or interdependent partner, to continue with your application to remain permanently in Australia even though the relationship with your spouse or interdependent partner has ended.

To access the provision, you must:

- have applied in Australia to remain permanently as the spouse (including as a de facto spouse) or interdependent partner of an Australian citizen, permanent resident or eligible New Zealand citizen; or
- have been granted overseas, a temporary Spouse visa (whether married or de facto) or Interdependency visa and have since travelled to Australia; or
- have been granted overseas, a Prospective Marriage (fiancé(e)) visa, have since travelled to Australia and, whilst that visa was valid, have married your sponsor; or
- be the spouse of a person who has applied to remain permanently in Australia under certain Skilled or Business Skills or Distinguished Talent or Resolution of Status (Subclass 851 only) visa classes.

If you have suffered domestic violence, fear for your safety, decide to end your relationship and leave, or have already left your spouse or interdependent partner, you must decide whether you wish to return to your home country or to remain in Australia.

If you decide to leave Australia, you must inform in writing the Department of Immigration and Multicultural and Indigenous Affairs (the department) that you no longer wish to continue with your application for permanent residence. You must also advise the department that your relationship with your spouse or interdependent partner has ended.

If you wish to remain in Australia, you must provide evidence to the department that is acceptable under migration law that you, or your dependent family members, have suffered domestic violence.

Domestic violence, as it relates to the domestic violence provision, is defined on page 2 of this form.

What this statutory declaration does not do

This statutory declaration does not assist a person to obtain protection from domestic violence. For information on services and assistance on domestic violence, you should contact a domestic violence information service or a women's refuge in your state or territory.

Who should use this statutory declaration?

If you, as the **visa applicant**, wish to remain in Australia, you must fill in this statutory declaration and provide evidence to the department that you, or your dependent family members who were included in your application for permanent residence, have suffered domestic violence and you fear for your or their safety. Details about how to complete the statutory declaration and what is acceptable judicial and non-judicial evidence are described on pages 2 and 3 of this form.

A **competent person** should also use this statutory declaration to provide a professional opinion on whether or not you (or a dependent family member) have experienced domestic violence. A competent person is a person in one of the professional groups defined on pages 2 and 3 of this form.

Do I have to meet any other visa requirements?

If you are assessed as meeting the domestic violence provision, your application will continue to be processed. You and anyone included on your application as migrating with you must meet other legal requirements, including:

- character (for any dependant 16 years or older); and
- health (including all dependants, even those in Australia or overseas who are not migrating with you).

There may also be other issues to resolve, such as the custody of minor children. For details on partner visa processing, see booklet 1, *Partner Migration*, which is available on the department's website www.immi.gov.au/allforms/ or from any departmental office.

Can the department help me?

The department has a domestic violence contact officer in each of its offices in Australia. These officers are experienced in handling visa applications involving domestic violence and can provide you with information about the domestic violence provision.

The domestic violence contact officers cannot provide domestic violence counselling services or assistance on domestic violence. However, they can provide you with a contact list for organisations in your state or territory that can help you, for example, a domestic violence information service or a women's refuge. It is your responsibility to find competent persons who, if required, can help you. For details of who are competent persons, see pages 2 and 3.

If you do not want to go to a departmental office on your own, you can take a relative or friend with you for support, or ask for help from one of the organisations that support the victims of domestic violence.

Warning

Under the *Statutory Declarations Act 1959*, a person who intentionally makes a false statement in a statutory declaration can be liable for imprisonment for 4 years. In addition, the *Migration Act 1958* provides penalties for providing false or misleading statements of 12 months imprisonment or a fine of A\$12,000.

About the information you give in this form

The department is authorised to collect information provided on this form under Part 2 of the *Migration Act 1958*: 'Control of arrival and presence of non-citizens'.

The information provided will be used by the department in considering an application for a permanent residence visa.

This statutory declaration and any other relevant information or documents may be provided to an agency gazetted by the Minister for Immigration and Multicultural and Indigenous Affairs for the purpose of verifying your claims in relation to domestic violence.

The information is given and received on the understanding that it will be treated in confidence.

Notes about domestic violence

What is domestic violence?

Domestic violence has a specific definition in the Regulations and this is the definition that must be referred to in relation to a claim that a visa applicant may be the victim of *relevant domestic violence*. For the purposes of the Regulations, the definition of relevant domestic violence is:

'Violence against the alleged victim or his or her property that causes the alleged victim, or a member of the alleged victim's family, to fear for, or to be apprehensive about, the alleged victim's personal well being or safety.'

Violence includes a threat of violence.'

Notes for visa applicants

Evidence you need to provide

In order to be assessed under the domestic violence provision, you must provide evidence that is required under the Regulations that you or your dependent family members have suffered relevant domestic violence. This evidence can be either from a court (judicial evidence) or evidence from competent persons (non-judicial evidence).

You can provide any of the following judicial evidence:

- a court injunction under the *Family Law Act 1975* against your spouse or partner; or
- a court order against your spouse or partner made under a state or territory law; or
- evidence that a court has convicted your spouse or partner of assault against you or your dependant(s) (or has recorded a finding of guilt against your spouse or partner); or
- evidence of a joint undertaking to a court made by you and your spouse or partner that relates to an allegation which is before the court that your spouse or partner has committed an act of violence against you or your dependant(s).

Alternatively, you can provide a statutory declaration on this form and 2 statutory declarations from competent persons (see list on this page) from 2 different occupation groups. A police record of assault, not including a witness statement of the alleged victim, is an alternative for one of the statutory declarations from a competent person.

Completing the statutory declaration

Under the Regulations, the statutory declaration must be made by the spouse or interdependent partner of the person alleged to have committed the domestic violence.

There are different requirements, depending on who is the alleged victim of domestic violence. These are described below.

(a) If you are the spouse or interdependent partner and you are also the alleged victim, you must include the following information in your statutory declaration:

- the allegation that you are making;
- the effect this has had on you; and
- the name of the person whom you allege has committed the domestic violence.

You need to complete Parts A and B of the statutory declaration and then sign at Part E in front of a witness as described on page 3 of this form.

(b) If someone else is the alleged victim, you (as the spouse or interdependent partner of the alleged perpetrator) must still make the statutory declaration on their behalf. Under the Regulations, you must give the following information:

- the name of the person who is alleged to have suffered domestic violence; and
- your own name and your relationship to the person who has suffered domestic violence; and
- the name of the person who is alleged to have committed the domestic violence; and
- the allegation you are making; and
- the evidence on which the allegation of domestic violence is based.

You must complete Parts A and C of the statutory declaration and then sign at Part E in front of a witness as described on page 3 of this form.

You should then send the completed statutory declaration to the departmental officer who is handling your application. Please ensure you have quoted your visa application reference number.

Notes for competent persons

Who is a competent person?

A 'competent person' is defined in the Regulations as:

- a person registered as a medical practitioner under a law of a state or territory providing for the registration of medical practitioners; or
- a person registered as a psychologist under a law of a state or territory providing for the registration of psychologists; or
- a person who is a registered nurse within the meaning of section 3 of the *Health Insurance Act 1973*; or
- a person who is a member of the Australian Association of Social Workers or is recognised by that Association as a person who is eligible to be a member of that Association; or
- a person who is a court counsellor under the *Family Law Act 1975*; or
- a person who is a manager or coordinator of a women's refuge or crisis and counselling service that specialises in domestic violence; or

- a person who is in a position with:
 - decision-making responsibility for a women’s refuge or a crisis and counselling service that specialises in domestic violence, that has a collective decision-making structure; and
 - responsibility for matters concerning domestic violence within the operations of that refuge or crisis service.

In the case of a report of domestic violence committed against a child, a competent person can also be an officer of the child welfare or child protection authorities of a state or territory.

In all of the above cases, the competent person must be currently performing the duties of the profession or position in Australia.

Responsibilities of competent persons

Under the Regulations, you must provide the following information in your statutory declaration:

- the basis of your claim to be a competent person for the purposes of assessing an allegation of domestic violence; and
- the name of the person who, in your opinion, has suffered domestic violence; and
- the name of the person who, in your opinion, committed the domestic violence; and
- whether, in your opinion, domestic violence has been suffered by the person; and
- the evidence on which you base your opinion.

Please refer to the definition of relevant domestic violence contained in the Regulations (see page 2 of this form), when assessing the evidence and stating your conclusions as to whether or not, for the purposes of the visa application, the person has been subjected to domestic violence.

If you are not experienced in domestic violence matters

The department is aware that not all of the people in the competent persons list will have sufficient knowledge and experience of domestic violence issues to make a confident recommendation.

You are not obliged to complete the statutory declaration. You may wish to refer the visa applicant to another competent person.

Completing the statutory declaration

You should complete Parts A and D of the statutory declaration and then sign at Part E in front of a witness as described below.

You can then give the statutory declaration to the visa applicant to send to the departmental officer handling their application.

Who can witness the statutory declaration?

In Australia, statutory declarations must be witnessed by a person prescribed by the *Statutory Declarations Act 1959* and Regulations. Any attachments to the Declaration must be certified by a prescribed person.

Prescribed persons include those who are a:

- Justice of the Peace;
- medical practitioner;
- legal practitioner;
- civil marriage celebrant or registered minister of religion;
- dentist;
- nurse;
- optometrist;
- pharmacist;
- physiotherapist;
- full-time teacher;
- bank manager or bank officer with 5 or more continuous years of service;
- postal manager or permanent employee of the Australian Postal Commission with 5 or more continuous years of service;
- police officer; or
- public servant with 5 or more continuous years of service.

A full list of prescribed persons can be found in the Statutory Declarations Regulations 1993, which is available through the Attorney General’s Department website

www.ag.gov.au/agd/WWW/agdhome.nsf/Page/Portfolio

A blank statutory declaration form is also available from the same website.

Home page

www.immi.gov.au

General enquiry line

Telephone **131 881** during business hours in Australia to speak to an operator (recorded information available outside these hours). If you are outside Australia, please contact your nearest Australian mission.

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Australian Government

Department of Immigration and
Multicultural and Indigenous Affairs

Statutory declaration relating to domestic violence

Form
1040

Office use only File number

Before completing this declaration

Please ensure that you have read the explanatory notes that accompany this statutory declaration.

Details of person making the statutory declaration

I, Family name

Given names

of Your residential address

POSTCODE

Occupation or qualification

Telephone numbers

Office hours (AREA CODE)

After hours (AREA CODE)

make the following declaration under the Statutory Declarations Act 1959.

Part A – Details

- 1 If you are:
- the visa applicant Complete **Questions 2 and 3** and **Part B** and then complete and sign the *Declaration* at **Part E**
 - completing the form on behalf of the visa applicant Complete **Questions 2 and 3** and **Part C** and then complete and sign the *Declaration* at **Part E**
 - a competent person Complete **Questions 2 and 3** and **Part D** and then complete and sign the *Declaration* at **Part E**

Note: Visa applicants and competent persons must complete separate forms.

- 2 Give the following details about the person or people who claim to have suffered *relevant domestic violence*

Family name	Given names	Date of birth			Relationship to the visa applicant (eg. visa applicant, dependent child, family unit member)
		DAY	MONTH	YEAR	

- 3 Give the full name of the person who is alleged to have committed the *relevant domestic violence* against the person(s) named in Question 2

Family name	Given names	Relationship to the visa applicant

Part B – Visa applicant to complete

4 Describe the *relevant domestic violence* experienced, including individual incidents, and who experienced the domestic violence.

Where possible include:

- what happened, including details of physical violence and threats of violence;
- when the domestic violence commenced;
- how frequently the domestic violence occurred;
- dates on which the domestic violence occurred;
- when the most recent incident was.

*For information about what you are required by the Regulations to provide, please refer to the definition of relevant domestic violence and **Notes for visa applicants** on page 2 of the guidelines at the front of this form.*

If insufficient space, please attach additional details

5 What impact has the violence had on you or your dependent family members?

Please go to the end of the form to complete and sign the *Declaration* at Part E

*Part C – A person making the statutory declaration
on behalf of the visa applicant to complete*

6 Give the following details about yourself

Full name	Your relationship to the person alleged to have suffered <i>relevant domestic violence</i>

7 Describe the *relevant domestic violence* experienced, including individual incidents, and who experienced the domestic violence.

Where possible include:

- what happened, including details of physical violence and threats of violence;
- when the domestic violence commenced;
- how frequently the domestic violence occurred;
- dates on which the domestic violence occurred;
- when the most recent incident was.

*For information about what you are required by the Regulations to provide, please refer to the definition of relevant domestic violence and **Notes for visa applicants** on page 2 of the guidelines at the front of this form.*

If insufficient space, please attach additional details

8 Based on the allegation, what evidence is there that the person has suffered *relevant domestic violence*?

If insufficient space, please attach additional details

Please go to the end of the form to complete and sign the *Declaration* at Part E

Part D – Competent person to complete

9 Your full name

10 What occupational group of competent persons do you belong to?

(Competent persons are prescribed in the Migration Regulations, as outlined on page 2 and 3 of the guidelines at the front of this form.)

Please attach to this form evidence that you meet the prescribed definition of a competent person (eg. evidence that you are a member of the Australian Association of Social Workers; evidence that you are a registered nurse and that you are currently employed as a registered nurse.)

11 What evidence is there that indicates to you that the visa applicant is the victim of *relevant domestic violence*?

Please give details, citing:

- specific incidents of domestic violence, including details of physical violence and threats of violence;
- dates on which the incidents occurred;
- the impact of these incidents on the visa applicant, including physical, emotional and state of mind.

*For information about what you are required by the Regulations to provide, please refer to the definition of relevant domestic violence on page 2 and **Responsibilities of competent persons** on page 3 of the guidelines at the front of this form.*

If insufficient space, please attach additional details

12 What conclusions have you reached?

Please support your conclusion with regard to:

- how you became aware of the domestic violence;
- the evidence provided; and
- your own observation.

*For information about what you are required by the Regulations to provide, please refer to the definition of relevant domestic violence on page 2 and **Responsibilities of competent persons** on page 3 of the guidelines at the front of this form.*

If insufficient space, please attach additional details

Part E – Declaration

13 *I understand that a person who intentionally makes a false statement in a statutory declaration is guilty of an offence under section 11 of the Statutory Declarations Act 1959, and I believe that the statements in this declaration are true in every particular.*

Your signature

Declared at

DAY MONTH YEAR

On

Before me,

Signature of qualified person

DAY MONTH YEAR

Date

Details of person before whom the declaration is made in printed letters

Family name

Given names

Preferred title

Mr Mrs Miss Ms Other

Contact address

POSTCODE

Occupation or qualification

Telephone number

Office hours

(AREA CODE)