

# STAY AT HOME LAW AND DOMESTIC VIOLENCE

On 20 January 2020, the government declared a '**Public Health Emergency**' and implemented new laws to require Queenslanders to **stay at home** (called 'Home Confinement').

There are exceptions which allow people to go outside of the home, but only if certain circumstances apply. For example, there is an **exception** which allows a person to leave their home to avoid injury or illness or to escape a risk of harm. This would allow a person to leave their home to escape a risk of harm related to domestic violence, including threats or danger.

Please note, different laws apply if you have just returned from overseas or if you have a confirmed diagnosis of COVID-19. If this applies to you, you should seek further legal advice.

## WHO CAN GO WITH ME IF I NEED TO LEAVE MY HOME?

If you have to leave your home to avoid injury or illness or to escape a risk of harm, you may take other members of your household with you. You can also have one other person with you, who does not live in your home. This means you can get help from one person who is not a member of your household, such as a friend, a carer or support worker.

If you are intending to leave home permanently, you should seek legal advice about your family law matters - including any children and property matters.

## WHAT ARE THE PENALTIES IF I DO NOT FOLLOW THE STAY AT HOME LAWS?

Breaking these laws without a reasonable excuse means you are committing an offence and you could receive a monetary fine.

## WHAT IF I NEED FURTHER HELP?

The following Services may be able to provide you with some free legal advice:

- North Queensland Women's Legal Service: 4033 5825 (Cairns) or 4772 5400 (Townsville).
- Aboriginal and Torres Strait Island Women's Legal Service (Townsville): 1800 082 600.
- Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Legal Service (ATSILS): 1800 012 255.
- Cairns Community Legal Centre: 4031 7688.
- Legal Aid Queensland: 1300 65 11 88.
- Townsville Community Law: 4721 5511.
- Queensland Indigenous Family Violence Legal Service (QIFVLS): 1800 887 700.

Alternatively, you can contact a private lawyer. If you need help finding one, the Queensland Law Society has a 'Find a Solicitor' tool available on their website: (<http://www.qls.com.au>).

If you need further (non-legal) support, the following Services may be able to assist you:

- Cairns Regional Domestic Violence Service: 4033 6100.
- North Queensland Domestic Violence Resource Service: 4721 2888 (Townsville and Mount Isa).
- DV Connect: 1800 811 811.
- 1800 Respect: 1800 737 732.
- The Women's Centre FNQ: 4051 9366.
- The Women's Centre Townsville: 4775 7555.