

Family Violence

What has worked well?

- Nothing has worked well, as my sister and children were victims of domestic violence.

What did not work well?

- [REDACTED] – My Affidavit written for Family Court and submitted with regards to the Perpetrators behaviour with the children. [REDACTED]
[REDACTED] His behaviour was unacceptable. The Perpetrator was under the influence of alcohol as well. Due to my sister being scared to say anything and intimidated, I stepped in. [REDACTED]
- [REDACTED] my father at the age of [REDACTED] was assaulted by the perpetrator. There was an Intervention order (IVO) on him not to go near the house where my sister and the children lived, but the perpetrator didn't care. No one knew my father was their, except for my husband and myself, as our dad was helping to fix doors etc. [REDACTED] Our father has never been the same since the assault. He was in shock and lucky that my husband was there to help, or else my father may have been killed. There has been NO support for my dad, or help for him. He has had many appointments with the Victims of Crime and they were to put up Security doors at my sisters house where he was assaulted and at his house. Still to this day- NO DOORS for Safety. Video Cameras were to be installed and still to this day – NO VIDEO SURVELLIENCE for safety. [REDACTED] he has suffered Chronic back pain since, which has caused him **not being able to work since the assault**. NO compensation has been issued.
- My sister left [REDACTED] to be closer to her parents and for the children to be with their grandparents. They all can feel a little safer, being some distance from the Perpetrator, the Court allowed her to move. Later in the years of court hearings etc a court hearing ordered for my sister to bring the children over to [REDACTED] weekly for the perpetrator to spend time with him, before the final Court hearing in the near future. As a sister/aunty/godparent to the children I believed it was my duty to help her with the driving. [REDACTED]

care'. Sadly the Perpetrator was granted fortnightly weekend visits and he has to contribute to the driving of pick ups and drop offs. I believe this was NOT A WIN for the Children. What child likes to sit in the Car for [REDACTED] hours their and [REDACTED] hours home? What child likes to not play weekend sport? What child likes to miss out on birthday parties? I said monthly, they said we are trying for 3 weeks but they came back to fortnightly. This Final court case was not about the children. It was about money and just do the same as others get. When [REDACTED] was told [REDACTED] cried.

- On the [REDACTED], I dropped my sisters children off at the Police Station as I was at my mothers and I said I will drop them off for you as I need to go back to [REDACTED] and to save her a trip. The Perpetrator is to have them for the weekend as per the Final Court hearing. He was to drop them off on the Sunday (his partner drives him). [REDACTED] this drop off was terrible and frightening as the Police made the situation worse, I felt scared and the children witnessed this behaviour therefore the IVO was breached again that my sister has in place for their protection against family violence. The police and the perpetrator were out of order. I do not do the drop offs anymore, as I will not be yelled at or be put in a dangerous position again. I use to think the police station was a safe place but it isn't, we were all at danger.
- This fortnightly visits is not working in the best interests of the children. [REDACTED] This saddens me. [REDACTED] doesn't want to go over to the Perpetrators every 2nd weekend. [REDACTED] wants to [REDACTED] and go to school. What is [REDACTED] to do? What are we to do? [REDACTED] is too scared to tell the perpetrator ([REDACTED]) 'I don't want to stay' because last time they all told him in the police station on the [REDACTED] and he was furious and angry apparently (on ctv footage) and they were able to go home with their mum. Poor little children, who are their Voices???????

What are the improvements needed?

- The name Family Violence needs to be changed as alot of the general public think they don't do family violence because they don't punch or physical assault her, but they do coercion and threats and economic abuse which is also Family Violence and they are unaware of this. Maybe change the name to Family Control or Family Abuse.
- Affidavits and Statements are not taken seriously. They need to be read and scrutinised appropriately and taken into the court as evidence. The affidavit/statement should be read out at the court hearing, highlighting the overall concern.
- Intervention Orders MUST be complied too, if they are not and the Perpetrator Breaches, NO Family Court hearing will take place until the perpetrator demonstrates they are a good person living within the community for a period of 3 months, then the Family Court Hearing can be pursued. Every Breach is a cost of an

extra 3 months to a Family Court Hearing/ and not seeing their children. In the meantime the children remain with the victim.

- BREACHES of IVOs MUST BE listened too and acted upon because my sister and father would not have been assaulted if the Perpetrator was pulled into line at the beginning.
- Police should undergo a 3 year degree just like nursing and teaching. If they want to specialise into family violence or crime scenes they should have to do an extra year of study.
- Drop offs being done at the Police Station should be supervised and they should be professional such as the victim and children are in one room and the police get the children when the perpetrator arrives and takes them into another room. A breathalyser or drug test should be taken on random pickups or drop offs. Currently the foyer in [REDACTED] is not the place, as the Police peer out of a tinted window and they do not stand out at the front bench.
- The Children should be able to pick their own Independent children Lawyer. They get to meet 3 and then they choose. The independent children lawyer MUST get to know the children and meet them on more than one occasion to build trust with them. We all know children are honest but if they are not listened too or taken seriously, this can impede in their behaviour, grades and life choices. The Independent children lawyer must ACT on behalf of the children. The Independent children lawyer must have NO association with the lawyers defending their clients.
- Children should be left alone for the school term to play sport, attend parties and see friends, this is a Normal Life and in holidays they go and visit the perpetrator if he warrants it. DO NOT interfere with the Children School term. School is very important and so are their weekends with friends and sport.
- **Overall, this perpetrator will not listen to the word NO, he drinks and drives- looses his licence for [REDACTED], he continues to drive without a licence, he breaches IVO's, he pays minimal maintenance when ever he wants despite earning a wage and he owes her an outstanding amount. If he doesn't get his own way, he will yell and get angry. He is intimidating. This is still continuing to this date.**