

## SPECIALIST DOMESTIC AND FAMILY VIOLENCE COURT

Queensland has introduced a number of specialised courts to deal with specific types of cases or that involve specific defendant groups.

### Learning outcomes

Students will:

- describe key terms using legal terminology, including jurisdiction and crime
- describe the court hierarchy in Queensland
- describe the links between the legal foundations to the criminal justice system as a general overview, including punishment and sentencing
- describe and explain the relationship of specialist courts and tribunals with state jurisdictions
- analyse legal issues by examining viewpoints and consequences, and evaluate the legal situation by using legal criteria and discussing implications.

### Focus questions

**What are the key features of the specialist Domestic and Family Violence Court?**

**How effective is the Domestic and Family Violence Court?**

### Key concepts

aggrieved

**Domestic and Family Violence Court**

magistrates

**Queensland Magistrates Courts**

respondent

stakeholders

taskforce

### Getting started

Ask students what specific needs victims and defendants involved in domestic and family matters may have?

What might a specialist court be able to provide them that a mainstream court and court process may not?

### Curriculum links

This learning resource has been developed for students studying Legal Studies 2019 (General Senior Syllabus) in Year 11.

It ties in with Unit 1: Beyond reasonable doubt, Topic 1: Criminal law foundations and Unit 3: Law, governance and change, Topic 1: Governance in Australia.

### Important information

This resource has been designed to be used with QSAC's podcast [Sentencing Matters: Episode 5 – Evaluating the Gold Coast's Domestic and Family Violence Specialist Court trial](#), the [Final Evaluation of the Trial Specialist Domestic and Family Violence Court in Southport](#) and the [Queensland Sentencing Guide](#).

### Further resources

The following websites may further enhance the learning outcomes associated with this resource:

[Queensland Courts, Specialist Domestic and Family Violence Court](#) (this contains a link to the evaluation report and a video on the operation of the Southport Domestic and Family Violence Court)

Special Taskforce on Domestic and Family Violence in Queensland, [Not Now, Not Ever: Putting an end to domestic and family violence in Queensland](#)

## SPECIALIST DOMESTIC AND FAMILY VIOLENCE COURT

### Your turn

Locate and open the [Queensland Sentencing Guide](#) and read page 16. Answer the questions below:

1. Identify the locations where you would find the Specialist Domestic and Family Violence (DFV) Court.
2. Identify the key reason for establishing the DFV court?  
What does this demonstrate about the law reform process?
3. Identify the key features of the DFV court. Many features include the word 'dedicated'? What does this illustrate about those that work in the DFV court?

Locate and listen to the Queensland Sentencing Advisory Council's podcast [Sentencing Matters: Episode 5 – Evaluating the Gold Coast's Domestic and Family Violence Specialist Court trial](#) and access the [Final Evaluation of the Trial Specialist Domestic and Family Violence Court in Southport](#). Answer the questions below:

1. Locating primary information is important in legal studies, as it helps you to identify legal issues and evaluate legal situations. Identify the different sources of primary information Griffith University used to evaluate the effectiveness of DFV court.
2. Identify and explain the key findings of the evaluation.
3. One of the key stakeholder viewpoints that was examined in the evaluation process was the victim. How do victims feel about the DFV court?  
What were some of the consequences (good and bad) they experienced as users of the DFV court?
4. Identify one of the reforms raised by Dr Christine Bond. Justify whether you believe this recommendation should be introduced. Make sure you use legal criteria and discuss the implications of the proposal.