

Safe Steps



# What is a Refuge?

Easy English

# What is a Refuge?

This booklet is about refuges.



You can ask someone you know and trust to help you read this.

The person could be a:

- Case manager
- Worker from a Family and Domestic Violence Service
- NDIS Support Coordinator
- Support worker
- Friend or relative

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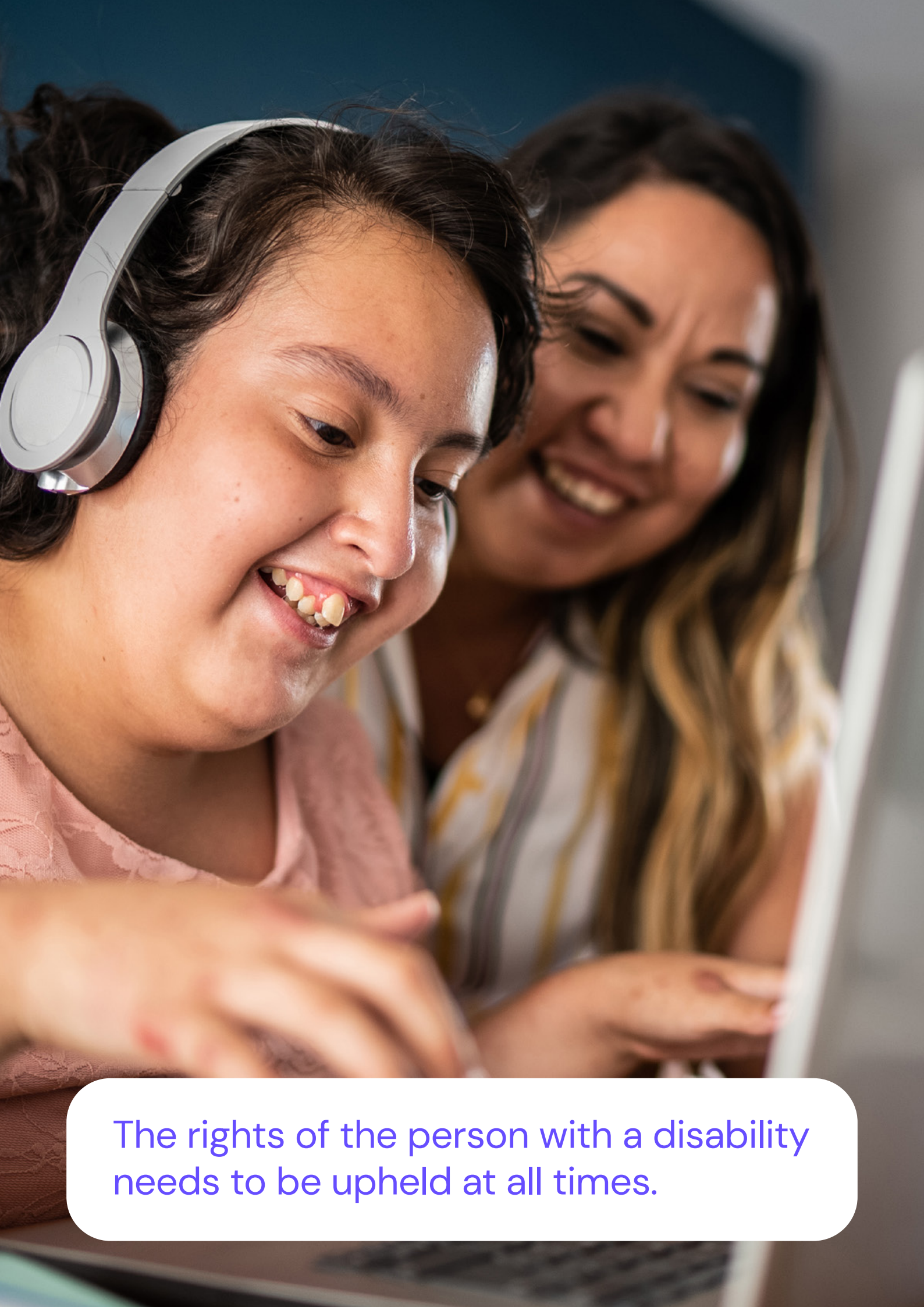
Not bold

**Bold**

We have written some words in **bold**.

On page 8 and 9 we explain what the words in **bold** mean.





The rights of the person with a disability needs to be upheld at all times.

# What is a Refuge?

A refuge is a safe place for **Family and Domestic Violence victim /survivors**.

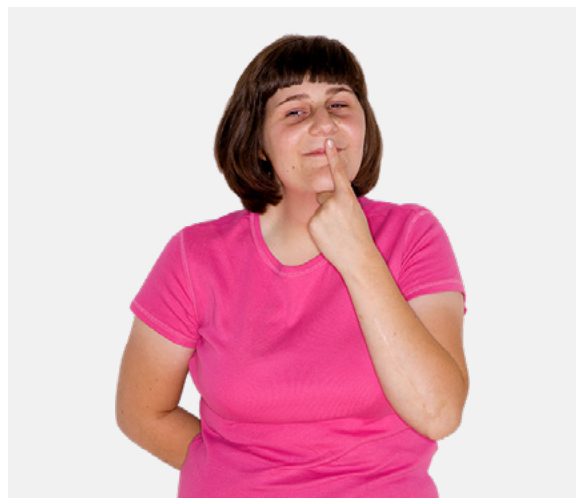
You can live in a refuge for a short time while you plan your next steps.



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Refuges are in secret places to keep everyone who lives there safe.

The **perpetrator** does not know where the refuge is.



The building has security in place.

It might have:

- Locked doors

and

- Security cameras



You get your:

- Own room

or

- Apartment

to live in for a short time





There might be shared living areas:

- A kitchen



- A playroom



- A front and back yard



Workers in the refuge help you:

- Plan what to do when you leave the refuge
- Develop an exit plan



These workers can give you:

- Information about services you need



- Emotional support



- Safety planning to keep you safe when you leave the refuge



- Assistance with:
  - Legal matters like applying for an **Intervention Order (IVO)**

FAMILY VIOLENCE INTERVENTION ORDER Family Violence Protection Act 2008 Sections 43-47 & 48-51

**Affected family member**

Who needs the Family Violence Intervention order?  
(Name of the person who is or has been affected by family violence)

Do you need an interpreter in court? If so, an interpreter can be arranged by the court, free of charge.  
 Yes  No  Not sure Language:

Date of birth:  Gender:  Male  Female  Other (Please specify)

Address Details

Does the respondent know this address?  
 Yes  No  Not sure Does the person committing the violence against you know your address? Your address can remain confidential. Your address does not have to appear on any court documents.

Confidential Address  
 Yes  No  Not sure Tick 'Yes' on the Confidential Address tick or 'Not sure' to take on a register about your address details.

What are the best ways to contact you?  
Telephone:   
Email:

What is your relationship to the respondent? How long have you known the respondent?

Have you separated from the respondent? If yes, how long have you been separated?  
 Yes  No  Not sure (If the date applies)

Are you Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander?  
 Yes  No  Aboriginal  Torres Strait Islander  Both Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander

Do you have a mobility? If so, please specify, as the court can consider any special arrangements.  
 Yes  No (Please specify)

- **Financial** matters





Safe Steps is a service helping adults and children who are experiencing **Family or Domestic Violence**.



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Safe Steps can help people with disability who have additional needs while they are living in a refuge.

This could be for:

- Support workers



- Accessible transport



- Equipment like a:
  - Wheelchair
  - Walker
  - Shower chair



To find out more, contact Safe Steps.

Phone: 1800 015 188



If you have trouble talking or hearing, use the National Relay Service (NRS).

Phone: 1800 555 690  
and ask for 1800 015 188



Email:  
[safesteps@safesteps.com.au](mailto:safesteps@safesteps.com.au)



# Word List

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## **Family and Domestic Violence**

It is a behaviour that is violent, that makes you or your family feel scared or unsafe.

The person doing this could be:

- A partner
- or
- A family member
- or
- Someone caring for you
- or
- Other people you live with

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## **Financial**

Things to do with money

or

how money is looked after

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## **Family Violence Intervention Order (IVO)**

An intervention order is a court order to protect a person, their children and their property from the person using violence.

It is a legal document that tells the person using violence to stop doing it.

If the person using violence does not stop, they will be breaking the law and could go to jail.

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**Perpetrator**

Someone who has done something very bad. This could be a:

- Crime
- Violent act
- Harmful act

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**Refuge**

A safe place for people to live if they have experienced family or domestic violence.

The address is a secret.

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**Victim/survivor**

Someone who has experienced domestic or family violence.

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**Violence**

It is any behaviour that meant to hurts someone or something.

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*Thank you to Reinforce Self Advocacy for their contribution in the development of this booklet, we would also like to thank Photo Symbols for their accessible images you have seen through out this booklet.*





1800 015 188  
[safesteps.org.au](http://safesteps.org.au)