

What is the family violence scheme?

Fines Victoria's family violence scheme helps victim survivors with fines if there is a link between the family violence and their fines.

The scheme allows your infringement fine(s) to be withdrawn if:

- you are a victim of family violence, and
- the family violence was one of the main reasons why you were unable to:
 - control the conduct for which you received the fine, or
 - name the driver that committed the offence.

What fines cannot be included in my application?

Although the scheme covers most fines, there are some that cannot be included in your application:

You cannot include a fine in your application if it was:

- issued by a court
- issued to a company
- for an offence against local council laws (except parking fines)
- for drink/ drug driving or drink/ drug boating
- for excessive speeding (more than 25km/h over the limit or over 130km/h).

You are unable to apply for the family violence scheme if:

- you have paid the fine in full
- the fine has been referred to court
- you have received a seven-day notice that has expired or you waived the seven-day period
- a Sheriff's officer has seized your vehicle
- the Director, Fines Victoria has:
 - made an attachment of earnings or debt direction
 - recorded a charge over land that you own.

How do I apply?

The easiest way to apply is by accessing the application form at fines.vic.gov.au/fvs

You can submit the form and supporting evidence by:



Email

Fines Victoria
fvs@justice.vic.gov.au



By post

Fines Victoria
PO Box 14487
Melbourne Victoria 8001



In person

Fines Victoria
Ground Floor, 277 William Street
Melbourne, Victoria
Opening hours: 9am to 5pm
Monday to Friday (except public holidays)

You can authorise a person to apply for the family violence scheme for you - such as a lawyer, guardian, financial counsellor, friend, or a family member.

What do I need to include in my application?

Your application must:

- be in writing
- provide your current postal address
- list the fines you want included
- explain why you think you are eligible

You should attach at least one item of supporting evidence. This can be either:

A document from a relevant authority or professional, such as:

- a family violence intervention order
- a family violence safety notice
- a report, letter or statement from a relevant professional (for example, a lawyer, financial counsellor, social worker or psychologist)

See: [A Guide to the Family Violence Scheme](#) for more detail on what this evidence should cover.

A statutory declaration by you (if you cannot get a document from an authority or professional)

- Your statutory declaration needs to explain how you meet the eligibility criteria – especially the link between your experience of family violence and your fines.
- Your statutory declaration needs to be signed and witnessed by an authorised person.
Visit justice.vic.gov.au/statdecs for a statutory declaration template and a list of people who can witness it for you.

Together, your application and the attached document(s) need to show how your experience of family violence was one of the main reasons for you being unable to control your actions or to make or reject a nomination.

We only need information that is directly relevant to you getting the fines. You do not need to provide lots of details of your relationship with the perpetrator, or all instances of family violence you have experienced.

Your application form does not need to repeat information that is included in a supporting document.

If we need more information to determine your application, we will ask you for it. If you cannot provide it by the due date, you can ask us for more time.

What happens after I apply?

Once we receive your application, we put your fines on hold. Once a decision is made, we will send you the outcome in writing.

If you are eligible for the family violence scheme, your fines will be:

- withdrawn (no further action will be taken against you, and any demerit points will be withdrawn), or
- put on hold so you can nominate the responsible driver within six months, if this is what you request.
You should seek legal advice before choosing this option.

If you are not eligible for the scheme, you will have 21 days to take action to deal with your fines.

How will you handle my information?

We will not share your information with the perpetrator of the family violence.

We collect personal information for the purposes of dealing with and enforcing your outstanding fine(s). We handle all applicants' information confidentially and in accordance with the *Privacy and Data Protection Act 2014* and the *Health Records Act 2001*.

We are required to provide your name, contact details, and fine details to the enforcement agency that issued the fine(s) when we receive your application, and again when we make our decision.

If we are concerned there is a serious threat to your or someone else's life, health, safety, or welfare, we may disclose your information to police or child protection for protection purposes. We will attempt to get your consent first and will let you know if we have disclosed your information for this purpose.

Where can I get more guidance?



For more detailed information about the family violence scheme, you can access [A Guide to the Family Violence Scheme](#).



To speak to a member of Fines Victoria's specialist family violence scheme team call 1300 019 983 between 9am to 5pm Monday to Friday (except public holidays) or email fvs@justice.vic.gov.au



For information about family violence support services visit services.dffh.vic.gov.au/family-violence



For legal assistance, contact:

Victoria Legal Aid | legalaid.vic.gov.au | **1300 792 387**

Federation of Community Legal Centres | fclc.org.au

Victorian Aboriginal Legal Service | vals.org.au

Justice Connect | justiceconnect.org.au

YouthLaw | youthlaw.asn.au



For assistance with managing your finances, contact:

Financial Counselling Victoria | fcvic.org.au/find-a-financial-counsellor/

National Debt Helpline | ndh.org.au/debt-problems/fines/ | **1800 007 007** (a free hotline)

THIS PAGE IS INTENTIONALLY BLANK

Use this form to apply for a review of your infringement fine(s) under the family violence scheme.

Who is submitting the application?

☒ I am the person affected by family violence

☒ I am the affected person's authorised representative, lawyer, or advocate

Your details (the person affected by family violence)

1. Details

Given name(s)

Family name

Date of birth

D	D	M	M	Y	Y	Y	Y
---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---

Driver licence number/Permit number

State of issue

☒ I have an international driver licence

☒ I don't have a driver licence

Residential address

Suburb		State		Postcode		Country (if not Australia)	
--------	--	-------	--	----------	--	-------------------------------	--

☒ I don't have a fixed address

☒ I would prefer not to provide my residential address

2. Postal address

We need to send you some information by post regarding your application. Please indicate your safest address for receiving correspondence.

☒ Same as my residential address

☒ Another postal address (this could be a PO Box or address of a friend, or your authorised representative)

Postal address

Suburb		State		Postcode		Country (if not Australia)	
--------	--	-------	--	----------	--	-------------------------------	--

☒ I do not have a safe postal address, please email me (fill in the next section).

3. Email contact

Is it safe to email you about your application?

☒ Yes, to this address

☒ No

☒ Through my authorised person (please fill in details on the next page)

4. Telephone contact

Is it safe to call you to discuss your application?

☒ Yes, on this number

☒ No

If yes, what are the safest days and times to call?

Can we leave a phone message at this number?

☒ Yes ☒ No

Do you need an interpreter to assist you if we call you?

☒ Yes, which language?

☒ No

Authorised person's details

If you are submitting this application on behalf of the person affected by family violence, complete this section. If you are the affected person and applying for yourself, leave this section blank.

Given name(s)

Family name

Organisation or company name (if applicable)

Position in organisation or company (if applicable)

Postal address

Suburb

State

Postcode

Country
(if not Australia)

Contact number

Email address

Relationship to person affected by family violence (if applicable)

Can we call you regarding this application?

☒ Yes ☒ No

How would you prefer to receive correspondence?

☒ Email ☒ Post

Your risk and support details (the person affected by family violence)

Are you or your children currently feeling afraid of a family member or experiencing family violence?

☐ Yes ☐ No

Has a support agency completed a risk assessment and a safety plan with you?

☐ Yes ☐ No ☐ I don't know

Would you like Fines Victoria to contact you to provide information about specialist family violence support services such as Safe Steps, 1800 Respect and Orange Door?

☐ Yes ☐ No

Your background and identity (the person affected by family violence)

These questions are **optional**. Any answers you provide will assist with de-identified statistical reporting and potential risk identification.

What is your gender?

☐ Female ☐ Male ☐ Self-described (please specify)

Do you identify as LGBTIQ?

☐ Yes ☐ No

Do you identify as Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander?

☐ Aboriginal ☐ Torres Strait Islander ☐ Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander ☐ No

How well can you communicate in English?

☐ Not at all ☐ Poorly ☐ Adequately ☐ Very well

What is the main language spoken at home?

Do you have a disability or impairment?

☐ Yes, please specify ☐ No

Which fines do you want to include in the application?

Please select one of the options below.

☒ **Option A** All my outstanding obligations. What outcome are you seeking for all your fines:

☒ I want them to be withdrawn (cancelled)

☒ I want to nominate the driver later (within six months)

☐ **Option B** Only the obligations listed in the table below.

☐ **Option C** All my outstanding obligations, except those listed in the table below.

Complete the table below only if you select option B or C. If there is not enough space, include an attachment.

Obligation or infringement number	Outcome you are seeking	
	I would like the fine withdrawn	I would like to nominate the driver later
	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

If you have listed fines above that are still at infringement stage (that is, you have not received a notice of final demand from Fines Victoria), please also include the details below:

Infringement number	Enforcement agency	Alleged offence	Date and time of offence

Nominating a driver

If you are found to be eligible, you can nominate a driver within six months of receiving the outcome of your application – if you feel safe to do so. You can provide their details below now if you wish but we will always contact you before processing a nomination as we understand your situation may change.

They have an international driver licence

They don't have a current driver licence

Reasons for application

Use this section to explain why you think you are eligible for the family violence scheme. We understand that providing this information can be distressing.

We need enough information to work out if you are eligible for the family violence scheme. We need to understand the link between the family violence and how it is relevant to you getting the fines.

You can leave this section blank if this information is included in the attached evidence (a document from a relevant authority or professional, or a statutory declaration).

Briefly describe how being a victim of family violence substantially contributed to you being unable to:

- control the conduct for which you received the fine, or
- make or reject a nomination.

Payment arrangements

Do you have a payment arrangement with Fines Victoria for any of the fines in this application?

☐

Yes

☐

No

If yes, please note that if you pay your fines in full they will no longer be eligible for the scheme. Would you like us to remove the relevant fines from your payment arrangement while we consider your application?

☐

Yes

☐

No

If your application is not successful, would you like us to propose a new payment arrangement to include these fines again?

☐

Yes

☐

No

Please note: **If any of your fines are on a payment plan with an enforcement agency, you should contact them directly to cancel the plan. If you pay the fine in full, we cannot consider it in your application.**

Checklist

☐

I have completed all the required fields

☐

I have attached my supporting evidence

Applicant declaration

- I authorise Fines Victoria to disclose my personal information to the enforcement agencies that issued the fine(s), the Magistrates' Court of Victoria and any person whose evidence I rely on in support of this application, and
- The information supplied in this form is true and correct to the best of my knowledge, and
- I understand that by making a false or misleading statement in support of this application, I may be prosecuted.

Signature of applicant

Date

D

D

M

M

Y

Y

Y

Y

Authorised person declaration (if applicable)

- I have informed the applicant that their personal information may be disclosed to the enforcement agencies that issued the fine(s), the Magistrates' Court of Victoria and any person whose evidence the applicant relies on in support of this application, and
- The information supplied on this form is true and correct to the best of my knowledge, and
- I understand that by making a false or misleading statement in support of this application, I may be prosecuted.

The applicant has consented to me making this application on their behalf.

☐

Yes

☐

No

Signature of authorised person or representative

Date

D

D

M

M

Y

Y

Y

Y

Submit your application



Email

Fines Victoria

fvs@justice.vic.gov.au



By post

Fines Victoria

PO Box 14487

Melbourne Victoria 8001



In person

Fines Victoria

Ground Floor, 277 William Street

Melbourne, Victoria

Opening hours: 9am to 5pm

Monday to Friday (except public holidays)