

# Northern Metropolitan Region Family Violence Intake Pathway: Children\* Experiencing Family Violence

**Police attend incident**

Police conduct preliminary risk assessment. Police make the appropriate family violence referral (see women’s intake pathway).

- If a child is present and police:
- have a reasonable belief that a child or young person is in need of protection
  - concerns of sexual or physical abuse or
  - concerns of significant harm or neglect

a referral is made to **Child Protection**

Child Protection liaises with Berry Street and ChildFirst (Hume Moreland) or The Orange Door (NEMA) to establish referral pathways, which may include:

Child Protection opens an investigation

Child FIRST work with family

Berry Street or The Orange Door may consult with or refer to:

**a specialist children’s casework or therapeutic service, children’s group work, CAMHS, Gatehouse or a private mental health practitioner.**

See Service Directory for children’s referrals.

**Woman with a child attends court to apply for a Family Violence Intervention Order or a variation, or due to civil action taken by police**

Support person refers the woman and her child to a **family violence service** as per the women’s pathway.

Family violence service may consult with or refer to: **a specialist children’s casework therapeutic service, children’s group work, CAMHS, Gatehouse or a private mental health practitioner.**

See Service Directory for children’s referrals.

**Woman with a child discloses family violence to a specialist family violence service**

Family violence service conducts a comprehensive risk assessment and safety planning.  
Given the presence of a child, service may:

Consult with **Child Protection** (Ph: 1300 664 977)  
Child Protection may open an investigation or make the appropriate referral.

**Consult with or refer to: The Orange Door, ChildFIRST, a specialist children’s casework or therapeutic service, children’s group work, CAMHS, Gatehouse or a private mental health practitioner.**

**Woman with a child discloses family violence to a generalist service**

Service conducts a preliminary risk assessment. If the woman or child are in present danger, service calls the police, with the woman’s agreement.  
If the police are not called, service may consult with: **Child Protection** (Ph: 1300 664 977) about the child’s safety.  
Service may also refer woman and her child to: **specialist family violence service** as per women’s intake pathway.

Child Protection open an investigation or make the appropriate referral

Family violence service may consult with or refer to: **The Orange Door (NEMA), ChildFIRST (Hume Moreland), a specialist children’s casework therapeutic service, children’s group work, CAMHS, Gatehouse or a private mental health practitioner.**

See Service Directory for children’s referrals.

**Child discloses family violence to a school or health service**

Consult with **Child Protection** (Ph: 1300 664 977) about the child’s safety.

Child Protection open an investigation or make the appropriate referral

**Glossary**

Berry Street NFDVS

Berry Street Northern Family and Domestic Violence Service

CAHMS

Child and adolescent area mental health services

NEMA

North East Metropolitan Area

**Notes**

\*Children are defined as people aged 0-18 years.