

# "You don't have to put up with it"

**Domestic & Family Violence Lawyers is an exclusive Domestic Family Violence innovative and paperless Law Firm. Its the first specialised firm in Australia and Victoria dedicated exclusively to domestic and family violence matters. With an innovative approach, the firm focuses on client-centred, trauma-informed legal services, ensuring optimal advocacy that aligns with human rights and social justice principles.**

By Carmella Acciarito

**DFV Lawyers is driven by a client-focused legal approach, built on four core objectives:**

- 1 Trauma-Informed Representation:** Acknowledging the profound psychological impact of domestic and family violence and integrating risk assessments and therapeutic approaches into legal strategies.
- 2 Human Rights and Social Justice:** Ensuring all legal responses are ethical and prioritise fairness, equality, and justice for victims.
- 3 Holistic Collaboration:** Working closely with clients and their families, considering both adult, child safety and protection.
- 4 Empowerment and Recovery:** Assisting victim-survivors in reclaiming control of their lives by referrals to a range of system services.



**DFV Lawyers is founded by Director and Principal Criminal Lawyer Carmella Acciarito, Barrister and Solicitor of the Supreme Court and High Court of Australia.**

Carmella's guiding principle is clear: **"You do not have to put up with it! Take that next step forward and call me."** Carmella regularly appears in Magistrates' Courts across Melbourne, including CDB, Heidelberg, Dandenong, Ringwood, Sunshine, and Werribee.

Carmella also represents clients in County Court Intervention Order Appeal hearings and Melbourne Children's Court for Child Protection matters. Carmella advocates for Applicants and Respondents, assisting individuals of all genders including non-binary, marginalised, and vulnerable groups ensuring their protection from harm and justice. The firm is committed to justice for those denied fair administration within the criminal justice system.

As Principal Lawyer, Carmella is unwavering in her commitment to client safety, well-being, and justice. A well-informed legal strategist, she brings extensive knowledge and experience, having previously worked as an educator and PhD researcher.

**Carmella is well-versed in key legislation, including the:**

- Family Violence Protection Act 1958 (Vic)
- Personal Safety Intervention Order Act 2010 (Vic)
- Summary Offences Act 1966 (Vic)
- Crimes Act 1958 (Vic)
- Children, Youth and Families Act 2005 (Vic)

Carmella is known for her deep understanding of clients, fostering trusted relationships, and providing unwavering support during their most challenging times. She is committed to meticulous legal advice and referrals, case preparation, fierce case conferencing with Victoria Police, and strong courtroom advocacy, ensuring strategic and powerful representation for optimal results.

## THE TECH AND INNOVATIVE LAW FIRM

DFV Lawyers stands as a beacon of specialised legal services and advocacy, ensuring justice and protection for those in need. It provides:

### Specialised Legal Services

DFV Lawyers provides tailored with specialised legal services, legal advice and strategic advocacy for cases impacted by domestic and family violence including unlawful assault and common assault; recklessly causing injury; stalking and harassment; child abuse and child protection, intervention orders and breaches; personal safety orders and other matters impacted by domestic and family violence such as in tenancy and migration- partner visa matters.

### Technology-Driven Practice

The firm operates as a paperless, technology-client integrated law firm, streamlining legal services for efficiency and accessibility: AI-driven applications enhance legal research and case analysis; Virtual consultations ensure easy access to legal advice; A secure client management system facilitates organised, confidential communication; Melbourne's Clarence Chambers is available for in-person meetings when required.

### Comprehensive Support Beyond Legal Representation

Understanding the complex nature of domestic and family violence, DFV Lawyers extends its services beyond courtroom advocacy it provides: Crisis counselling and emotional support; Strategic guidance for trauma-impacted clients; Referrals to non-legal services, including psychological and social support networks. By integrating systems efficiency, specialised expertise, and holistic advocacy, DFV Lawyers continues to lead in delivering innovative, compassionate, and strategic legal solutions for individuals experiencing domestic and family violence.

## DFV Lawyers promotes the culture of innovation

DFV Lawyers promotes a culture of innovation by fostering creativity first through its creative marketing approaches, as mentioned its unique innovative web page was designed to think outside the square and by using a video segment to attract clients proved to be an efficient process in promoting operations efficiency, and adaptability across all levels of the firm.

## THE FIRM IS:

### 1 Technology - Driven with Legal Solutions:

As mentioned, the firm operates as a paperless, technology-integrated practice, leveraging AI-driven applications for legal research and case management. It promotes the use of virtual consultations such as Zoom or Webex and operates on an efficient secure client management systems known as Clio, supported by an internal IT Consultant ensuring legal compliance and client confidentiality is met at all times. Additionally, DFV lawyers operates on a technology based- specialised domestic and family law matters, these streamline operations, not only assists in legal services but they are more accessible for clients.

### 2 Continuous Learning & Development:

DFV Lawyers is committed to ongoing training in trauma-informed lawyering and emerging legal technologies completing courses and attending legal expos. The firm encourages cross-disciplinary collaboration and referrals, integrating insights from psychology, social work, and law to enhance client support.

### 3 Client-Centred Innovation:

DFV Lawyers prioritises tailored legal advice, solutions and advocacy. DFV Lawyers prioritises tailored legal solutions, ensuring strategies align with individual client needs. The firm promotes a holistic approach to lawyering by extending beyond legal representation, offering emotional and crisis support through referrals.

### 4 Encouraging Employee Creativity:

DFV Lawyers is empowered to learn new strategies for improving efficiency and client outcomes attending many professional development courses. DFV lawyers provide a monthly blog on its website to enhance client engagement and carriage of service. DFV Lawyers foster open communication channels and a collaborative client-lawyer environment, where innovative communication tools are used regularly such as virtual technology.

### 5 Strategic Partnerships & Industry Leadership:

DFV Lawyers regularly collaborates with external experts in domestic and family violence, Victoria Legal Aid and Women's Legal Service Victoria for new policy development and professional development in family violence. New technology systems such as using AIR PAY, and referring to the Victorian Law Foundation, Law Institute of Victoria, Victoria Police for new policy development. DFV Lawyers regularly participation in legal innovation forums conducted by Leo Cussen Centre for Law, Law Institute of Victoria and Law Associations ensuring DFV Lawyers stays abreast and ahead of innovative industry trends and legal compliance.

## DFV LAWYERS PROVIDES THE FOLLOWING INNOVATION TO CLIENTS:

- 1 Enhanced Accessibility:** Our paperless, tech-integrated model allows clients to access legal services online at [www.domesticfamilyviolencelawyers.au](http://www.domesticfamilyviolencelawyers.au). We use various marketing tools—YouTube, billboards, medical office ads, brochures, business cards, and Law Week articles—to reach our audience. With support from Shopamarketing and CU Digital, we implement SEO and targeted Google and YouTube ads to attract new clients.
- 2 Remote Legal Services:** DFV lawyers excels by providing confidential and comfortable legal services remotely, reducing barriers for those in crisis. This enhances accessibility and efficiency: The firm also provides tailored legal advice, solutions and advocacy using AI-driven applications to improve case analysis, and ensuring strategic, and personalised legal advice:
- 3 Holistic Support:** Beyond legal representation, DFV Lawyers provides referral-based emotional and crisis support, helping clients navigate trauma effectively.
- 4 Benefits to the Business:** The firm operates on operational efficiency: The firm's virtual model reduces overhead costs associated with traditional office spaces.
- 5 Financial Growth:** By streamlining processes, DFV Lawyers has optimised resource allocation, improving profitability and sustainability.
- 6 Competitive Edge:** Its specialised focus on domestic and family violence law sets it apart, attracting a growing client base.
- 7 Benefits to Employees:** DFV operates as an incorporated company, a start-up company with its founder and director operates on a flexible work environment: The firm's virtual operations allow the founder to work remotely, improving work-life balance. DFV Lawyers is driven by the use of Advanced Legal Tools: AI-driven research tools enhance efficiency, reducing administrative burdens and allowing lawyers to focus on high-value legal work.
- 8 Professional Development:** The founder and director regularly gains expertise in trauma-informed lawyering enrolling in multi-faceted family violence courses to strengthen and sharpen her skills in domestic and family violence given its specialised legal field.

## Need urgent domestic violence advice?

Call us on: 03 7020 6508 | 0497 839 590

[www.domesticfamilyviolencelawyers.au](http://www.domesticfamilyviolencelawyers.au)

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VIOLENCE  
— LAWYERS —