

Key information

What can I do?

Who should I contact?

What powers do the Courts have?

How will I pay?

Don't Stand For It

Domestic Violence is more common than you think. The experienced team at Leeds Day can help support you through the steps needed to bring it to an end.

Domestic violence can happen to any type of person. It happens to women, it happens to men. It happens to all social classes regardless of wealth, religion or background. It can be physical, emotional or mental abuse and affect one person or a whole family.

Whatever form it takes, domestic violence is rarely a one-off incident, and should instead be seen as a pattern of abusive and controlling behaviour through which the abuser seeks power over their victim.

Domestic violence affects the victim and more often than not the children of the family also. Not only are many children traumatised by what they witness, there is also a strong connection between domestic violence and emotional and/or physical child abuse.

Domestic violence is chronically under-reported, but research shows that:

- One in four women and one in six men will be a victim of domestic violence in their lifetime.
- 89% of those suffering four or more incidents are women
- One incident of domestic violence is reported to the police every minute.
- On average, two women a

week are killed by a current or former male partner

- Domestic violence accounts for 16 per cent of all violent crime

There are various remedies available via the courts to protect against domestic violence and these include orders regarding harassment, threats of violence and in relation to occupation of the home. More often than not if the party seeking such an order has limited income, public funding (also known as legal aid) can be made available at very short notice to get an immediate order. In order to make a successful application to the court for an order for protection, called a non-molestation order, time is of the essence. The Court may also make orders that the violent partner leave the family home immediately in circumstances where there has been actual harm. It is essential that the person seeking help speaks to a legal advisor as soon as possible. Orders by the court can last up to six months and in some instances can be extended for a further six months in which time longer term plans can be made.

Both orders can have a power of arrest attached which provides the police with immediate power to arrest the perpetrator if they attempt to breach the order. This is effective once the order is served upon them. Breach of such an order can be punishable by a caution, fine or even imprisonment.

If you or anyone you know is suffering from domestic violence, emotionally, physically or mentally, please seek our advice now.

Contacts

For further information, please contact your usual Leeds Day contact or

Abby Smith
 FILEX
 01480 454301
Abby.smith@leedsday.co.uk

For a full list of our offices and people please visit:

www.leedsday.com

The information contained in this note is correct to the best of our knowledge at the time of publication. It is intended as a general guide only and should not be taken as specific advice.

© Leedsday 2007.