



Duncan Lewis
Solicitors

Domestic Abuse

What is Domestic Abuse?



Domestic abuse is a term used to describe incidents of controlling, coercive, or threatening behaviour or abuse between couples or family members regardless of gender or sexuality. Domestic abuse can include:

- Emotional abuse
- Financial abuse
- Physical abuse
- Psychological abuse
- Sexual abuse

Controlling behaviour can involve depriving a person of their independence, regulating their everyday behaviours, isolating them from their friends and/or family, and exploiting the individual for personal gain.

Coercive behaviour involves acts of assault, threats, humiliation or intimidation that is used to punish or frighten a person.

Domestic abuse also includes so-called 'honour' based violence, female genital mutilation (FGM) and forced marriage.

Our Services

Our solicitors have extensive expertise in assisting those suffering from domestic abuse or violence. We are experienced in securing various court orders that can protect victims of domestic abuse from further abuse including Non-Molestation Orders and Occupation Orders.

We assist individuals and have expertise in helping those with children or dependents, as well as those whose immigration status is dependent on staying with their partner.

We regularly handle matters that involve:

- Emergency applications
- Female Genital Mutilation Protection Orders (FGMPO)
- Forced Marriage Protection Orders (FMPO)
- Non-Molestation Orders
- Occupation Orders
- Protection against Harassment Act 1997
- Transfer of tenancy

Protecting Children

If children are involved in cases of domestic abuse, whether directly or indirectly, our family and child care team can help secure court orders that will protect the children involved, these include Non-Molestation Orders, Prohibited Steps Orders, Specific Issue and Child Arrangement Orders. We can also advise and assist with regards to social services whether it is child protection conferences or care proceedings.

Securing Immigration Status

If your leave in the UK is on the basis of being the spouse or partner of someone who is present and settled or has refugee leave, and you have suffered domestic violence or abuse from them or another family member, then you may be eligible to make an application to the Home Office for leave on the basis of being a victim of domestic abuse. We can refer you to our immigration specialists.

Fees and Funding

Public Funding (Legal Aid)

Legal aid is the public funding of legal services, administered by the Legal Aid Agency to individuals in eligible cases who cannot afford to pay for legal advice and representation. We can advise you as to whether legal aid funding may apply in your case. When it does, we can assist you in making the necessary applications for funding and advise you of your financial obligations.

Private Funding

We offer competitive hourly rates to ensure we give your case the best possible chance of success. We can also offer you a number of fixed fee packages; for example, if you require assistance with select matters in your case such as representation at a one-off hearing.

At your first meeting with us, we will discuss with you how we calculate our charges. Where possible, this includes a detailed breakdown of the estimated costs.

Reporting Domestic Abuse

In an emergency please call the police first and foremost on **999**.

In non-emergency situations the police can be contacted on **101** or if possible, individuals can report instances of abuse and violence at a police station.

Contact Us

Our business hours are from 9:30am to 5:30pm, Monday to Friday.

 **033 3772 0409**

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