



DOMESTIC VIOLENCE FACTSHEET

- ❖ If you or someone you know is suffering domestic violence, then it is important to seek practical advice as soon as possible.
- ❖ Domestic violence can cover a range of situations where one person harms another person and the two people involved have some pre-existing relationship and do not necessarily have to be heterosexual.
- ❖ There are estimated to be over four hundred thousand cases of domestic violence each year. However, only a third of these are reported.
- ❖ The important thing to remember is that you no longer have to suffer in silence.
- ❖ Men can also suffer domestic violence.
- ❖ You can contact the National Domestic Violence Helpline, which is free phone and provides support for sufferers.
0808 200 02047
- ❖ Depending on your income, you may be entitled to free legal advice and assistance.
- ❖ If you are a victim of a violent relationship you may need somewhere safe to stay, either alone or with your children. The following options are available:
 - Stay at home if you think it is safe.
 - Stay with relatives or friends.
 - Stay in a women's refuge.
 - Get emergency accommodation from the local authority.
 - Get privately rented accommodation.
- ❖ There will also be long-term solutions that you may need to consider. For example, long term separation advice, a Non-Molestation Order, which is a form of injunction or an Occupation Order, which could allow yourself and your children to remain in the property with the perpetrator being removed.
- ❖ We provide a sympathetic, friendly, understanding and confidential service and specialise in family and matrimonial law.
- ❖ Contact us to book an appointment so that we can discuss through your problems and any solutions available. You are very welcome to bring along a friend for support.

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The Domestic Violence Crime & Victims Act 2004 is now in force. This provides important changes to Non-Molestation Orders and Occupation Orders, which can be summarised as follows:

1. The protection the Law extends to cohabitation to include same sex couples and in addition to this it also includes people who have had an intimate personal relationship with each other which is or was of significant duration.
2. There is an automatic power of arrest attached and breaching a Non-Molestation Order has become a criminal arrestable offence and that will be brought before the Magistrates Court for the criminal offence.
3. The third change is that the Court is restricted on when they can accept an undertaking which is known as a promise by the Respondent.

If the Reader is or knows of anyone suffering domestic violence we offer a friendly approachable service and we would urge that you make an appointment to see one of our Specialist Family Solicitors.

Please note that this fact sheet should be used as a general guide only. The advices given do not relate to specific circumstances and we strongly recommend that you make an appointment to see us.

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