



# Domestic Abuse

Keeping people safe

A guide for professional referrers



## Keeping people safe

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**Sadly domestic abuse is a common feature in many relationships and can come in many forms.**

Domestic abuse is often thought of as physical or sexual violence and harassment but it can also be emotional or psychological, for example bullying or controlling behaviour and financial abuse.

The abuse may be actual or threatened and may vary in duration from a one off incident to situations where the abuse is a regular feature of the relationship.

Domestic abuse can occur in any relationship and is not confined to couples who may or may not live together but in any relationship where one person harms another for example between a parent and an adult child.

As professionals, you may come into contact with individuals who have been or who are being subjected to domestic abuse.



## Should the individual affected get legal advice?

Yes, there are a wide range of orders available to protect the individual and any children. Children's services can also become involved if the children are at risk of domestic abuse and we can advise individuals in relation to child protection issues.

## How can a solicitor help?

We can make applications to the Court to protect the individual and children from violence, threats of violence, harassment (including through social media) and remove the perpetrator from the family home.

These applications can be made in an emergency if necessary including obtaining orders on the same day that we are consulted by the individual.

We can also make applications in relation to the children of the relationship such as an order to confirm where the children should live and with whom they should have contact. Orders can also be made to prevent the children being removed from school by the perpetrator.

## Should a solicitor who specialises in domestic abuse be consulted?

Yes, wherever possible. We have solicitors who are Resolution accredited in domestic abuse. These are solicitors who have extensive knowledge of domestic abuse proceedings. We work closely with independent domestic violence advocates, the police, refuges and other organisations that assist the individual affected.



## Is Legal Aid available?

Yes, Legal Aid is available for domestic abuse matters subject to a means test. If the individual is not eligible for Legal Aid we have a range of fixed fee options available.

Emergency Legal Aid is also available to ensure that action can be taken immediately.

Legal Aid is also still available for those affected by domestic abuse to issue divorce proceedings, proceedings in relation to children and financial issues. This is subject to certain criteria and can involve obtaining a letter from the police, social services, domestic abuse support services and/or the individual's doctor.

## What information should a person bring to the appointment with a solicitor?

The individual should bring to their appointment if possible:

- 1 documentary evidence of all sources of income including any maintenance received. If in employment three months' payslips**
- 2 three months' bank statements for all accounts**
- 3 documentary evidence of outgoings such as mortgage/rent, childcare and maintenance.**

We appreciate that this is not always easy to obtain but the information regarding finances is necessary to assess eligibility for Legal Aid.

## Get in touch

Please call our domestic abuse team if you require any further information.

We are happy to discuss general enquiries, alternatively visit us at [coodles.co.uk](http://coodles.co.uk) or email [family@coodles.co.uk](mailto:family@coodles.co.uk)

