

Domestic Abuse



Domestic violence (also called Domestic Abuse) is a crime and a major social problem affecting many families. In 90% of reported domestic abuse incidents, children have either been present in the same or a nearby room.

Domestic Violence Protection Notices and Orders

Please see [Safeguarding Matters \(Special Edition - May 2014\)](#) which raises the awareness of the Domestic Violence Protection Notices and Orders legislation and process.

What is Domestic Abuse?

The Government, in the Domestic Violence, Crime and Victims Act 2004, defines domestic abuse as 'incident of threatening behaviour, violence or abuse (psychological, physical, sexual, financial or emotional) between adults who are, or have been intimate partners or family members, regardless of gender or sexual orientation'.

Family members includes mother, father, son, daughter, brother, sister, and grandparents, whether directly related, in-laws or step-family.

How does it affect children?

- Domestic abuse may teach children to use violence
- Abuse can affect children in serious and long-lasting ways
- Where there is domestic abuse there is often child abuse
- Children will often blame themselves for domestic abuse
- Alcohol misuse is a very common contributing factor when abuse occurs in families
- Pregnant women are more vulnerable to domestic abuse

Children, who witness, intervene or hear incidents are affected in many ways. What can be guaranteed is that children do hear, they do see and they are aware of abuse in the family.

Children will learn how to behave from examples parents set for them. Domestic abuse teaches children negative things about relationships and how to deal with people. For instance:

- It can teach them that violence is an acceptable way to resolve conflict
- They learn how to keep secrets.
- They learn to mistrust those close to them and that children are responsible and to blame for abuse, especially if violence erupts after an argument about the children.

Many people find it difficult to understand why people remain in or return to abusive violent situations. A combination of fear, love, the risk of homelessness and financial issues can make it very difficult for partners with children to leave and some may not want to.

Children are affected in many ways by abuse, even after a short time. These affects include: feeling frightened, becoming withdrawn, bedwetting, running away, aggressiveness, behavioural difficulties, problems with school, poor concentration and emotional turmoil.

What can I do?

There are free services for women and men experiencing domestic abuse, to access advice and support on a wide range of issues including housing, legal and benefits.

Listed below are some of the organisations that can support you:

- **The Doli Project**
Provides support to anyone who is affected by a forced marriage.
Tel: 0845 658 1057
[Click here to visit, The Doli Project website](#)
- **National Domestic Violence Helpline 24 hour freephone**
Tel: 0808 2000 247
[Click here to visit the website for 24 Hour National Domestic Violence Helpline](#)
- **The Survivor's Handbook**
Provides practical support and information for women experiencing domestic abuse, with simple guidance on every aspect of seeking support.
[Click here to visit the Survivor's Handbook website](#)

If you are a male victim of domestic abuse, contact:

- **Victim Support Men's Helpline**
Services available: Helpline for male victims of sexual and domestic abuse. Provides an opportunity to talk in confidence and anonymously
Tel: 0800 328 3623
[Click here to visit the Victim support website](#)
- **M.A.L.E: Mens Advice Line Enquiries**
Confidential helpline for male victims of domestic abuse whether in straight, gay, bi sexual or transgender relationships
Tel: 0808 801 0327
[Click here to visit Men's Advice Line](#)

For more information see [National Links](#), and for local support across Derbyshire see our [Local Links](#).