

Advice and Support for Domestic Violence

SKBLAW

FAMILY LAW
SPECIALISTS

THE
ACADEMY

*This guide is intended to offer general advice. Every situation will be different. If you have any questions or need to obtain a court order, call SKB Law to **book your free confidential 30 minute legal advice call on 01274 727373 or WhatsApp 01274 732482.***

What is Domestic Violence

Domestic abuse is not just physical violence. It can be psychological, sexual, financial, emotional, and include harassment, stalking, female genital mutilation, forced marriage and honour-based abuse.

It can happen to anyone

Anyone can experience domestic violence, regardless of gender, age, ethnicity, socio-economic status, occupation, sexuality or background.

Remember: it's not your fault. Your partner's behaviour is not something you can control, no matter how informed you are, no matter how perfect your life seems to everyone else.

Do You Need A Court Order?

A solicitor can help you to obtain a **Non-Molestation Order** if you need to stop your partner harming or threatening you.

You may need an **Occupation Order** if you want your partner to leave your home or to stop them coming back to it.

The police can also issue a **Domestic Violence Protection Notice** and then apply to the magistrates' court within 48 hours for a Domestic Violence Protection Order. This can ban your partner from returning home and contacting you.

If you are on a Spouse Visa

Seek legal advice. **You may be able to apply for indefinite leave to remain** in the UK as a victim of domestic violence and apply for permission to claim benefits for up to 3 months with the Destitute Domestic Violence concession.



Stay at Home Rules

On 23 March, the UK Government stated everyone must stay at home and only go outside for food, exercise, health reasons or work.

The Government's coronavirus Stay At Home Rule **does not apply if you need to leave your home to escape domestic abuse.**

Call 999 if you are in danger

If you call from a mobile – **press 55** if you are unable to speak during the call. The police will know that you may be in danger.

Protecting Children

During COVID-19, Government Guidance states "where parents do not live in the same household, children under 18 can be moved between their parents' homes."

If you need to **change a court order because of safety reasons**, and you have parental responsibility, you are within your rights to change the child contact arrangement to something else. The courts may consider whether you "acted reasonably."

Planning (only if it is safe)

If you want to leave your partner but you're not sure when, start planning. **Three things** you can prepare (only do this if you judge **it safe to do so**):

- **Emergency Bag:** essential items for you and your children e.g medication, ID, clothing, money;
- **Phone:** try and keep your mobile with you;
- **Finances:** make a list of your assets (you may need this for future proceedings). Open a new account and set aside some money.

