



WHAT IS DOMESTIC ABUSE?

Support leaflet

Domestic abuse includes any incident of threatening behaviour, violence or abuse. The abuse can be psychological, physical, social, financial, or emotional.

Domestic abuse can happen between two people who are or were intimate partners or family members, regardless of their gender or sexuality.

If you are in fear of a partner, ex-partner or member of your family, you might be experiencing domestic abuse. **Do they often:**

- Call you names and make you feel bad about yourself?
- Make you afraid by threatening you or your children?
- Behave violently towards you?
- Stop you seeing your friends or family?
- Keep you without money?
- Harm you or make you feel you could be seriously harmed?

If the answer to some of these questions is yes you might be experiencing domestic abuse.

GET HELP NOW

Call the police on **999** if:

- your personal safety is threatened
- you are at risk of assault or injury in an emergency

You can contact the [National Domestic Violence Helpline](#) on **0808 2000 247** if you are woman experiencing domestic abuse. You can talk confidentially to someone about your situation and to find out what your options are.

If you are a man experiencing domestic abuse you can contact the [Men's Advice Line](#) on **0808 801 0327**.

If you are in a same-sex relationship you can call the [National LGBT Domestic Violence Helpline](#) on **0800 999 5428**.

Call the [Samaritans](#) on **08457 90 90 90** if you feel in despair and want someone to listen to you and provide emotional support

LEAVING HOME IMMEDIATELY

If you think you need leave your home, try to arrange temporary housing from the council before you leave. Not everyone leaving home due to violence is entitled to emergency accommodation.

You could also stay with friends or relatives while you think about what to do next and seek advice from the agencies listed.

Take some essentials with you such as a change of clothes, toiletries and any medication you need to take regularly. Try to bring important items such as your passport, bank and credit cards and mobile phone.

Don't make a decision to give up your home permanently until you have spoken to an adviser and considered all your options.

GET HOMELESSNESS HELP FROM THE COUNCIL

For cases where an applicant cannot safely remain in their home due to domestic abuse, harassment, or hate crime it is not appropriate for the case to be assessed under Part 6 (Housing Register). Legally, these cases must be assessed under homelessness legislation (Part 7), which ensures that the appropriate duties and protections can be applied.

If you are unsafe and can no longer remain in your home, please contact the Housing Advice Team on **01788 533468** during office hours (09:00 to 17:00, Monday to Friday) out of office hours call our emergency number on **01788 579706**.

LOCAL SUPPORT AGENCIES

If you are experiencing abuse or harassment in the home, you can seek advice and support from a number of local domestic abuse organisations.

TALK 2 SOMEONE **(WARWICKSHIRE DOMESTIC** **ABUSE SUPPORT SERVICE)**

Warwickshire Domestic Abuse Support Service offers support, advice and information for anyone concerned about domestic abuse.

Visit Warwickshire [Domestic Abuse Support Service](#) or call the helpline on **0800 4081552**.

RoSA

Rape or Sexual Abuse Support offers free, specialist and confidential counselling and support for women, men and young people from the age of five-years-old who have experienced rape or sexual abuse, whether it is recent, ongoing or childhood abuse.

Visit [RoSA](#) or call the helpline on **01788 551151**.

DOMESTIC ABUSE **COUNSELLING SERVICE**

The Domestic Abuse Counselling Service is a non-profitable charitable organisation which offers counselling services for victims of domestic abuse.

Visit the [Domestic Abuse Counselling Service](#) or call **024 7635 1137**.

Use Shelter's directory to find a Shelter advice centre or Citizens Advice in your area. You can contact Shelter on **0808 800 4444** or the local Citizens Advice on **0808 250 5715**.

HELP FROM SOCIAL SERVICES

Some people may be entitled to help from the council's social services department. **Social services might be able to help if you:**

- are elderly
- have children living with you are under the age of 18 have left care (or are about to do so) are in poor health have a physical or learning disability.

Social services may be able to help by finding accommodation for you, paying for a deposit or providing financial support.

There are no rules about the kind of help social services must provide. You can call [Warwickshire Social Services](#) on **01926 410410**. Find details of help available in your local area.

REFUGES FOR WOMEN

Women experiencing domestic abuse may be able to stay in a [women's refuge](#). Some refuges are specifically for women from certain backgrounds, such as Irish or Asian women.

Staff at refuges can give you advice about your situation. Contact the National Domestic Violence Helpline on **0808 2000 247** for more information about refuges.

REFUGES FOR MEN

If you are a man who has had to leave home because of domestic abuse, you can make a homeless application to the Council.

EQUATION

in partnership with Refuge Warwickshire, deliver a domestic abuse service for men living in Warwickshire.

There is limited specialist housing for men experiencing domestic abuse. Contact a [Shelter advice centre](#) or [Citizens Advice](#) to check what help is available.

You can contact Shelter on **0808 800 4444** or the local Citizens Advice on **02476 494393**.

HELP FOR CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE

If you or someone else in your family is being hurt at home, you may not be sure what you can do about it. Domestic abuse is not your fault and you will not get into trouble for telling someone about it.

The first thing is to tell someone else about what is happening to you. You can tell a teacher, a neighbour, a friend or a friend's parent.

You can call [Childline](#) on **0800 1111** for free. They won't tell anyone else you are calling unless you are in immediate danger. They can tell you about places where you can get help.

WOMEN'S AID

is the national charity working to end domestic abuse against women and children. As a federation we provide life-saving services across England while building a future where domestic abuse is not tolerated.

LGBTQ+

National Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Trans Domestic Violence helpline run by Galop, provides support to LGBT people suffering domestic abuse.

Phone: **0800 999 5428.**

