



Fact Sheet

Domestic violence

What is Domestic Violence?

Domestic Violence is physical, sexual, psychological, emotional or financial abuse within a relationship. It uses power, fear and social isolation to control a person's behaviour. So slapping and hitting are forms of abuse but so are keeping someone without money or away from the outside world unable to reach family and friends.

Facts about Domestic Violence

One in four women experience domestic violence at some time in their life

One in nine women experience physical domestic violence where medical attention is needed

Domestic violence claims the lives of two women each week and 30 men each year

According to the NSPCC, one in four children have witnessed domestic violence

Domestic violence accounts for a quarter of all violent crime

Who can experience it?

Any person can experience domestic violence regardless of their sexuality, class, race, ethnic origin, religious group or disability.

What can St Leger Homes do to help?

Don't suffer in silence. Please speak to anyone at your local housing office who will be able to help you. You can also contact one of the specialist agencies listed at the end of the factsheet.

We will contact you within 24 hours of receiving a complaint (immediately if it's an emergency)

We can arrange for a male or female member of staff to talk to you in private at a convenient location and with an interpreter if needed

We will listen to you and advise you of your options and never take action without your consent unless you or your children are at serious risk of harm

We will provide a private interview room with a free phone so you can contact support agencies in confidence

We can put you in touch with specialist agencies that can help you

Information can be made available in other languages, or other formats such as Braille or audio, on request. Please ask a member of our staff for more information, or if you need any other help or advice. They can arrange to speak to you in your own language if you need them to.

After carrying out a risk assessment to check what you need,

we can fit extra security measures to your home if you wish to remain. This is called our sanctuary scheme

We can advise you on rent, housing benefits and debt

I am planning to leave my home – what should I do next?

Try and do a bit of planning first and gather together things that you need to take with you. Store these with a family member or friend

If possible, leave when the abuser is not around – you can always go back with the police later to pick up anything

Contact us for advice if you want to move from your home - in an emergency we can liaise with Doncaster's Homelessness Section

We can put you in touch with a trained supporter, who knows about how to deal with domestic violence, and who can arrange a place of refuge, if you want to leave home.

Keep all important documents safe and close by – these could be benefit books, medical cards, bank books driving licence, marriage and birth certificates and passports.

Keep all copies of injunctions or non-molestation orders and check with your solicitor that the police have received copies

Keep a photograph of your partner for identification purposes

Try and save some money for taxi or bus fares

Pack a set of clothes for you and your children

Include some children's toys in your bag

Pack some spare medication

Carry a list of emergency telephone numbers

Keep a spare set of car/house keys in a safe place

Try and get a mobile phone

Should I tell my children about my plans?

Younger children may not be good at keeping secrets whereas older children may cope better with the information. Always try and take your children with you as it can be difficult to get access to them later on. You will not lose your rights as a parent if you have to leave your children but you must see a solicitor as soon as possible so you can take steps to get them back.

What If I want to stay in my home?

You can take legal action to allow you to stay in your home and keep out the person abusing you. The courts can do this by way of an 'Occupation Order' which says who has the right to live in your home. They may also grant a 'Non Molestation Order' which sets out the way your partner must behave in the future and stops them threatening and harassing you.

You must seek independent legal advice as St Leger Homes cannot do this for you. Ring the Community Legal Service Direct on 0845 345 4345 for free, impartial advice.



For further information contact:

Women's Aid Doncaster

01302 326411

National Domestic Violence Helpline

0808 2000 247

www.womensaid.org.uk

Victim Support Doncaster

01302 365531

National Helpline

0845 3030 900

28 Christchurch Road

Doncaster DN1 2QL

Doncaster Citizen Advice Bureau

01302 735225

Refuge

0808 2000 247

www.refuge.org.uk

Doncaster Rape and Sexual Abuse Counselling Centre

01302 341572

Safer Doncaster Partnership – Domestic Violence Advocate

Wendy Olivant

01302 737080

Doncaster Council Homelessness Section

01302 862015

St Leger Homes Neighbourhood Housing Offices

North Area – Adwick Housing Office, Windmill Balk Lane, Adwick Tel: 01302 734145

South Area – Rossington, Housing Office, McConnell Crescent, Rossington Tel: 01302 734183

East Area – Stainforth Housing Office, Emerson Avenue, Stainforth Tel: 01302 862441

West Area – Conisbrough Housing Office, 62 Church Street, Conisbrough, DN12 3JJ

Central Area – The Council House, College Road, Doncaster Tel: 01302 862278

Community Legal Service Direct – free impartial legal advice

0845 345 4345

www.clsdirect.org.uk

NSPCC Child Protection Line

0808 800 5000

Broken Rainbow (same sex domestic violence advice)

08452 604 460

Solicitors in Doncaster

Please contact the solicitors below to check if they provide legal aid also some solicitors will also provide the first meeting free of charge.

Jordans
4 Priory Place
Doncaster DN1 1BP
01302 365374
www.jordansllp.co.uk

Atherton Godfrey
8 – 9 Hallgate
Doncaster DN1 3LU
01302 320621
www.athertongodfrey.co.uk

Malcolm Foy & Co
52 Hallgate
Doncaster DN1 3PB
01302 340005

Chris Stevenson Solicitors
103 Thorne Road
Doncaster
DN2 5BE
01302 341243

Atteys Solicitors
82 Cleveland Street
Doncaster DN1 3DR
01302 340400
www.atteys.co.uk

Keeble Hawson
5 – 7 Regent Terrace
South Parade
Doncaster
DN1 2EE
01302 366831
www.keeblehawson.co.uk

Grainger Appleyard
26 – 27 Hallgate
Doncaster DN1 3NL
01302 327257
www.graingerappleyard.co.uk

Cowlings
5 – 9 West Street
Mexborough
S64 9HZ
01709 587538

Foys
Kingsgate House
Kingsgate
Doncaster DN1 3JZ
01302 327136
www.foys.co.uk

Taylor Bracewell
17 – 23 Thorne Road
Doncaster
DN1 2RP
01302 341414
www.taylorbracewell.co.uk

Bridge Sanderson Munro
55 Hallgate
Doncaster DN1 3PD
01302 321621
www.bsmlaw.co.uk

Hayes Son and Richmond
8 South Parade
Doncaster
DN1 2ED
01302 347800
www.hsrlaw.co.uk