

Domestic Violence, Abuse and Harassment

Your rights to protection



*Community
Legal Service*



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This leaflet tells you about your legal rights if you are suffering any sort of abuse in your home from other members of your family. It also tells you how to get practical help to protect you and your children.

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The leaflets in this series give you an outline of your legal rights. They are not a complete guide to the law and are not intended to be a guide to how the law will apply to you or to any specific situation. The leaflets are regularly updated but the law may have changed since this was printed, so information in it may be incorrect or out of date.

If you have a problem, you will need to get more information or personal advice to work out the best way to solve it. See 'Further help' on page 18 for sources of information and advice.

Domestic abuse includes all kinds of behaviour that is meant to hurt or frighten you. It can happen to anyone: to women and men; gay, lesbian and straight (heterosexual) people; and people of any age or background. It ranges from physical violence to cruel words and threats that are meant to scare you. You do not have to tolerate this kind of behaviour. There are laws to protect you and any children you have living with you. The police, social services and medical services can also help to keep you safe from harm.

What can I do if someone in my family is abusing me?

You can take practical steps to make yourself safe, and legal steps to try to stop it happening again. This leaflet describes both. It's mostly about what to do if your partner is abusing you, but there is a section on page 15 about other abusive family relationships.

What if I think it's my fault?

However you think the problem started, you still have a right not to experience violence or abuse. There are laws to protect you, even if you feel that you started the argument or whatever led to the abuse. Domestic abuse is wrong, whatever the circumstances.

What if it has happened before?

You can still take action, whether it has happened for the first time or many times. You can get protection even if you have already had help and then got together again with your partner. Don't be afraid to ask for help again over problems with your partner. The law is still there to protect you.

What if I just want to be safe but don't want the other person to be punished?

There are several ways of dealing with violence and abuse. You don't have to go all the way to a court case if doing something else will protect you. However, if the police are involved, the case can go to court even if you don't want it to, depending on how serious the crime was, and how much evidence they have.

Practical things to do if you have been abused

The first thing is to make sure that you and any children are safe. If you need protection during a violent incident, call the police on 999. If you are using a mobile phone, tell the operator where you are immediately, because they cannot find out by tracing your call. The police have a duty to protect you and any children and make sure you are safe. They

may arrest your partner. They may go with you to a safe place if you need to leave the home so as to be safe. They can tell you about emergency housing and refuges.

If you want help from the police at some point after you were abused, you can ring your local police station (their number is in the phone book) and ask to speak to the community safety officer (sometimes called the domestic violence officer), who will be able to advise you what to do. See also 'What the police can do for you' on page 8.

You may have to leave your home for a few days to go to a safe place, while you sort out your legal position. You will not lose your rights to the home if you do this. For help and advice, call the confidential 24-hour National Domestic Violence Freephone Helpline – see 'Further help' on page 18 for details.

If you have been abused in the past, or you think you are going to be abused, you may be able to make a planned escape and leave with money, clothes and other things you will need. The things you should take on a planned escape are:

- clothes;
- toiletries;

- passports – yours and any children's;
- benefit books or details;
- your National Insurance number;
- savings books;
- bank details;
- your children's health record books;
- any other personal identification, such as an official letter addressed to you at your home;
- your children's favourite toys; and
- a photograph (if you have one) of your partner.

Sometimes it is safer just to get out of the home with whatever you can grab. Don't panic; make sure you are safe first. The things you will need to sort out are described on the following pages.

What if I have to leave the children?

You will not lose your rights as a parent if you have to leave your children, but it is important that you see a solicitor as soon as possible so you can take steps to get back to them (if you want to). If you leave them for weeks or months with your partner, a court may feel that changing the situation would unsettle them.

What if I have been injured during the abuse?

If you have any sort of injury, you need to make sure you get it treated and recorded. Go to your GP or to the local hospital casualty department. It may be embarrassing, but tell them how the injury occurred and ask them to note this on your records. This is because you may need a medical report if your case goes to court. If your injuries are visible, like bruises or cuts, try to get a photograph of them. If you don't have a camera, you can use a photo booth, or buy a cheap disposable camera.

What should I do about money?

If you make a planned escape, before you go you may be able to get some money together to tide you over. If you have to leave in a rush this may be difficult. If your money is in a joint account with your partner, think about asking the bank to put a stop on the account so that your partner cannot take out money without you. However, this will mean you can't get money out either, so before you do this make sure you have enough for the time being. If you can, set up a separate bank account before you go. If you don't have any money of your own, call your local benefit office. You may be able to get a crisis loan if you need it, and you can apply for Income Support at the same time.

How can I find somewhere to live?

You may be able to stay with friends or family, but this may not feel safe enough, or you may not want to involve them. If you are escaping domestic violence or abuse, you can contact your local housing authority to see if they can find you a temporary home. (Look in the phone book under your local council's listings.)

Most areas also have women's refuges that offer temporary housing to women and their children. You do not have to have children to be able to stay there. Some are especially for women from a particular background or ethnic group. The staff in a refuge will give you advice and support and help you work out what to do next. You will be able to stay there until you can find somewhere safe to live. Refuges do not print their addresses or phone numbers for safety reasons. To find out about refuges near you, call the National Domestic Violence Helpline – see 'Further help' on page 18.

Getting your things from home

If you have had to leave in a rush and need to go back home to get important things, the police will generally help you arrange this. They will find someone to go with you so that you can go home safely.

Dealing with drink and drugs

If you are being abused because you or your partner is using alcohol or drugs, there are several organisations you can contact for help. Alcoholics Anonymous can help someone who is drinking too much. Another organisation, Al Anon, can help the families of people who drink too much. If the problem is drugs, talk to your GP or your health visitor, who will know what help is available locally.

Taking legal steps

Once you have thought about the practical things you need to do to ensure your short-term safety, you can take some legal steps to make sure the law can protect you. You can get help from the criminal law and the civil law together or separately. You have a number of choices depending on:

- what has happened;
- what you want to do; and
- what you can afford.

Why you may need to take legal steps

There are several reasons why you may need to use the courts, including if:

- your partner is violent to you and the police are called to the incident;

- your partner has been violent to you and you decide to call the police after the event;
- someone else informs the police that they think you or your children are being abused;
- your partner has been violent to you and you decide to take some advice from a solicitor; or
- your partner is violent to you, you involve the police and you consult a solicitor.

In all these situations the law is the same but you get access to it in different ways and will have different choices to make. We describe each of these here.

Your partner is violent to you and the police are called to the incident

The police will normally take steps straight away to protect you and any children. They may arrest your partner if they believe he or she has committed a crime, such as assault. If they arrest your partner and release them on police bail, they can impose conditions to protect you and stop them doing it again. This may include stopping them:

- coming back to the home for the time being; or
- contacting you or your children.

The police may follow up an emergency visit and investigate what has happened. You may be visited by a community safety officer, who will be able to tell you where you can get help and what the police plan to do about the situation. See also 'What the police can do for you' on page 8.

Your partner has been violent to you and you call the police after the event

Call your local police station (you will find the number in the phone book under 'Police'). You should ask to speak to your local community safety officer. They will normally talk to you on the phone and may arrange to meet you to investigate your complaint, and help you decide what you want to do.

The community safety officer will be able to advise you about your options. If you decide to stay in your home, the officer can tell you how to keep yourself safe and how to call for help if you need it. Some police forces have special emergency buttons and mobile phones they can give you so that you can call for help quickly if you need it.

If you feel that you want to report your partner's behaviour and make what the police call a 'complaint', then the officer will take the details from you.

Someone else tells the police that they think you or your children are being abused

The police will follow this up and contact you to find out what has happened. The community safety officer will probably phone you, arrange to see you to investigate the complaint, and help you decide what you want to do.

Your partner has been violent to you and you decide to see a solicitor

Solicitors are listed in Yellow Pages. However, you will need one who specialises in family law, and possibly also one who takes publicly funded (legal aid) cases, so ask about this at your local Citizens Advice Bureau.

Resolution is an association of specialist solicitors, who take a sensible approach to family law and try to keep things amicable (friendly or polite). It keeps a list of member solicitors and will tell you which ones work in your area. The Law Society also has a Family Law Panel. Solicitors on this panel have to pass an exam and prove they have family law experience. The Law Society will give you the names of solicitors on this panel in your area.

See 'Further help' on page 18 for how to contact these, and other, organisations. If you need emergency help because, for example, you have had to leave your home, make this clear to the firm of solicitors when you phone for an appointment. In some areas, there is a network of solicitors who deal with domestic abuse. If a firm cannot see you straight away, they will pass you on to another firm who can.

Your solicitor will be able to explain to you what you can do and should be able to arrange for you to get some advice about help with money and housing, if you have not been able to sort these out for yourself. Your solicitor can advise you about applying for what is called an injunction against your partner if this is what you want to do – see 'Court orders you can get to protect you' on page 11.

Your solicitor may also advise you to tell the police what has happened.

Your partner is violent to you, you tell the police and you consult a solicitor

The police community safety officer will talk to you and discuss your options. They may also say that you can get an injunction (a court order to stop your partner from abusing you

or your children). The police may suggest that you see a solicitor to sort this out, even if they are going to take criminal action against your partner.

What the police can do for you

The police can take action to protect you and your children. They may do this by arresting your partner, if they have the power to do so, and holding him or her for a short time (for example, overnight).

The police will then normally investigate what happened, to see whether a crime has been committed. The police need your help with their investigation. However, it is the police and the Crown Prosecution Service (CPS) – not you – that decide whether your partner should be taken to court.

You should not be put under pressure to make a complaint about your partner if you decide that you don't want to. But if you drop a complaint, the police will still want to make sure that you will be safe and may talk to you about your decision. The CPS can go ahead and prosecute your partner anyway if it has enough evidence.

If the CPS does prosecute your partner, he or she could be fined or given another type of sentence. Or they could be 'bound over to keep the peace' (told they must behave, or they will be brought back to court). In cases of serious or repeated violence, they could be sent to prison.

Action by the police may stop your partner behaving badly towards you again. If he or she is on bail, the police or the court can impose conditions stopping him or her coming near your home or your workplace, or from contacting you or the children. They can also impose other conditions if they think these are needed to protect you.

If your children were also abused or were present when you were being abused, the police may contact Social Services, depending on how serious the abuse was or how often it happened.

If your partner is prosecuted for assault in the criminal court, it won't sort out who has the right to live in your home or impose an order saying how your partner must behave or restricting where they can go. To do this you need to go to the civil court and get an injunction. See 'Court orders you can get to protect you' on page 11.

What a solicitor can do for you

Your solicitor should advise you about what you can do, and the best choices for your situation. Not everyone has to get an injunction to be safe from a violent or abusive partner. Sometimes a strongly worded solicitor's letter can stop your partner abusing you again.

Your solicitor should check whether you can get public funding (legal aid) to pay for any court proceedings. Whether you can receive public funding depends on how much you earn and how much money and property you have. It also depends on your case and whether you need a solicitor to apply to the court for you. You may have to pay some of the costs. See the Legal Services Commission leaflet 'A Practical Guide to CLS Funding' for more about this.

Some solicitors may tell you that you cannot have public funding if you can use the police instead, but this is not true. If you want to apply for a court order to protect yourself from domestic abuse, and need public funding to do so, the application form for public funding asks whether you have reported the matter to the police.

The form also asks if you have considered whether a warning letter from a solicitor to your partner will stop his or her behaviour. In some cases this may be better than an injunction and, if so, you won't be given public funding.

However, a warning letter alone may not be right for you, for example because you need to bring civil proceedings to deal with the ownership of your home. In this case, your solicitor needs to explain this on the form. If you don't qualify for public funding, you will have to pay your solicitor out of your own money. This can be expensive, especially for an injunction, because an injunction involves court proceedings. If you are in this position, ask your solicitor to give you a realistic estimate of the costs at the start.

How do I get a court order?

If it seems that you need a court order to protect you (and your children) for the future, you can apply to the court for an injunction. You apply by filling in a form and making a written statement describing what has happened. You have to swear that the contents of the statement are true. (You may hear this statement described by its old name 'affidavit'.) Once this is handed in to the court, the court fixes a day for a hearing.

You must give your partner at least two days' notice of a hearing, and the papers must be given to him or her personally.

Your solicitor (if you have one) will fill in all the forms and arrange for the papers to be 'served on' (personally given to) your partner. You will need to be at the hearing.

Your solicitor will tell you where to go and arrange for you to be represented at court.

If the situation is so serious that you need an order immediately, you can apply to the court on the same day, without telling your partner. This is called applying 'without notice' (some lawyers use the old expression 'ex parte'). If you apply 'without notice', you can generally get an order about the way your partner should behave (a 'non-molestation order'), but not an order about who can live in the home (an 'occupation order'). If you get an order this way, it must then be served on your partner and the judge will fix a day in the near future for a hearing that you must both attend.

What if I can't get public funding and I can't afford a solicitor?

You can act for yourself in the civil court. Your local county court office will be able to give you the forms you need to fill in and a leaflet, 'Part IV of the Family Law Act 1996: How can it help me?' You can also download these forms and the leaflet from the Court Service website (see 'Further help' on page 18). You will have to pay the application fee (currently £60). If you can't afford this, you can fill in a form asking for it to be waived.

You may be able to apply to the Family Proceedings Court (the family part of the magistrates' court) instead. If you do this, you don't have to pay a fee. However, in many parts of the country the Family Proceedings Court will send you to the county court. Before applying, you can phone your local Family Proceedings Court to ask it whether it does this.

Court orders you can get to protect you

Court orders generally fall into two parts:

- Orders about the way your partner should behave in future – 'non-molestation orders'.
- Orders saying who has the right to live in the home – 'occupation orders'.

Non-molestation order

This order tells your partner they must not use or threaten to use violence against you, or 'harass, pester or intimidate' you or any children living with you. The order is generally written in wide terms to stop all forms of unpleasant behaviour including, for example, threatening phone calls. It will also stop your partner getting someone else to harass you.

Occupation order

If your partner's behaviour has been serious enough for them to be kept apart from you so as to protect you, then you will need an order saying who can live in the home.

An occupation order can order any number of the following:

- one partner to leave the home;
- one partner to let the other return to the home;

- one partner not to return to the home;
- one partner to keep away from the home; or
- one partner to stay out of parts of the home.

The court can also make orders about:

- who will repair and maintain the home;
- who will pay the mortgage or rent and other costs; and
- who can use and care for things in the home.

You can't use an occupation order to change the ownership of the property. You may need to sort this out through separate legal proceedings, and you should seek legal advice about this.

What will I have to tell the court?

For a non-molestation order, you will have to tell the court about how the violence or abuse has affected you. If you have received medical treatment because of the violence or abuse, it helps if you can prove this. A doctor's report and photographs of any injuries are useful for this.

For an occupation order, the court needs more information. The judge also needs to know about:

- your and your partner's housing needs (and the needs of any children you have);
- how much money you both have;
- how any order will affect your and your partner's (and any children's) health, safety and well-being; and
- how you and your partner have behaved towards each other.

If you are not married the judge also needs to know:

- how long you have been living together;
- whether you have children or stepchildren;
- how long you have been separated;
- whether you are in any other legal proceedings together, such as other court proceedings about your family.

What will happen at court?

Your solicitor (if you have one) should arrange for you to have a solicitor or a barrister at court, who will speak for you to the judge. If you do not have a lawyer, you will speak directly to the judge. The judge will read the forms you have filled in, and your statement about what has happened and what your partner has done.

Your partner will be able to reply to what you have said about him or her. If they have had enough time before the hearing, they may state their reply in writing. If your partner does not really dispute what has happened and wants to sort something out, he or she may offer the court an 'undertaking'. This is a solemn promise about their future behaviour, similar to an injunction. Sometimes you may also be asked to give an undertaking about your behaviour.

The judge does not have to accept an undertaking – it depends on whether it looks as if this will keep you safe enough in the future. See 'How a court order protects you' on page 14.

When the judge has heard from both of you, he or she will make an order or set out the terms on which the court accepts an undertaking.

What if my partner isn't there?

Your partner may not be at the court hearing for various reasons:

- you may have gone to court as an emergency without serving the papers on your partner;
- it may not have been possible to serve the papers on your partner before the hearing; or
- your partner has been served with the papers and does not turn up to court.

The judge can make an order if your partner does not come to the hearing.

If your partner has not been served with the papers (because you have gone to court for an emergency hearing or your partner can't be traced), then the judge will fix another date in the near future to give you another chance to serve the papers. The judge may also make a short-term non-molestation order to protect you until that hearing. The judge will not normally make an occupation order if your partner has not been served with the papers, but may do this if it seems the best way to protect you until the next hearing.

If your partner has been served with the papers and has not come to court, the judge will make whatever orders he or she thinks are appropriate to protect you.

How a court order protects you

A court order tells your partner what he or she must and must not do. If they break this order, you have the right to bring the case back to court and ask for your partner to be punished. If they disobey the order or undertaking, it is up to you to decide to bring the matter back to court – no-one else will enforce the order. If your partner breaks the order, you should tell your solicitor straight away so that you can decide what to do next.

The judge can fine your partner, or imprison him or her, sometimes just for a few days or for months, depending on what he or she has done. A judge will not always choose imprisonment if something else may work better to protect you in the future. The judge may also extend the court order.

If your partner has given an undertaking and does not keep their promise, the judge can punish this too.

If you get a 'power of arrest' with the order, this makes it stronger because it means that the police can arrest your partner if he or she breaks the order. The police (not you) should then take your partner back to court. However, you will need to attend court to tell the judge what happened and how you want your partner to be punished. The judge must attach a power of arrest to your order if he or she believes that your partner has used or threatened violence against you. You cannot have a power of arrest if your partner has given an undertaking.

What happens after the hearing?

You will get a printed copy of the order made by the judge. Make sure your solicitor gives you a copy, which you should keep with you at all times. You or your solicitor must make sure that your partner receives a copy too.

It is important that your partner is handed the order personally because the order will only be effective if you can prove your partner knew about it. If you have a power of arrest on the order, you or your solicitor should make sure your local police station has a copy of the order. The order generally lasts for a fixed period – three months, for example.

If necessary, you can go back to court at the end of the period to get another order to keep you safe.

Can I get other court orders?

If you are married, you may be thinking about divorce proceedings. If you have children, you may need to sort out any argument between you and your partner about where they are going to live ('residence') or visiting arrangements ('contact'). You may need to start legal proceedings about who owns your home.

Your solicitor can advise you about whether you can get public funding to cover these things.

What should I do if I fear that my partner will take the children away?

You should tell your solicitor at the start of the case. You can then decide whether the court should be asked to make orders about the children or their passports. An organisation called Reunite can offer information and help to parents who fear that their children have been abducted or may be abducted. See 'Further help' on page 18 for Reunite's phone number.

What if my partner snatches the children?

If you think your children are likely to be taken out of the country, tell the police immediately. They can issue a 'port alert' to try to stop them leaving. The police will need a full description of your partner and the children. Photographs would be useful. Tell your solicitor as soon as possible as well. If the children are taken out of the country, the Child Abduction Unit may be able to help.

If you do not think they will leave the country, tell your solicitor. He or she can take steps to get an emergency court order for their return. See 'Further help' on page 18.

What if the person abusing me is not my partner?

You can get an injunction in the civil court under the Family Law Act 1996 if the person abusing you is:

- your former husband, wife or civil partner;
- a former partner who you used to live with (who could be a same-sex partner);
- someone you are or have been engaged to marry or become a civil partner to;

- someone you live with or have lived with (but not your tenant or landlord, employer or an employee);
- a relative, including half or step relatives;
- the other parent or someone who shares parental responsibility for a child of yours;
- an adoptive parent of a child of yours (or someone who is due to be an adoptive parent); or
- someone who is involved in the same family court proceedings as you.

If the person abusing you doesn't fit in any of these categories, there are still laws that will help you. For instance, you can stop a former boyfriend or girlfriend from harassing you by using the Protection from Harassment Act 1997.

This Act gives the court power to impose restraining orders that are similar to occupation and non-molestation orders. (See 'Court orders you can get to protect you' on page 11 for an explanation of these.)

If you have been the victim of violence, you can also get the help of the police, whoever has abused you. Ask to speak to the community safety officer at your local police station.

How can I help someone who is being abused?

If someone you know is being abused, you can give them this leaflet or the leaflet produced by the Home Office called 'Violence, Financial Control, Emotional Abuse', which has advice on dealing with abuse. See 'Further help' on page 18 for details.

You should try to be supportive and understanding. Give the person time to talk and to work out whether they want to take action to stop the abuse. They may not be ready to take action yet. Any choice needs to be theirs. You may be able to offer practical help, such as the use of your phone, or post sent to your address. Don't put yourself in danger – call the police if you think your friend or their children are at risk.

Terms used in matters to do with domestic abuse

Civil courts Courts that do not deal with crime. For family law injunctions, you generally use the county court, although you can sometimes use the Family Proceedings Court, which is part of the magistrates' court.

Criminal courts Courts that deal with crime. Cases start in the magistrates' court and may go from there to the Crown Court. If a defendant is found guilty, then the court can impose a punishment such as a fine or a prison sentence.

Family Proceedings Court The section of the magistrates' court that deals with family cases. It can sometimes be used instead of the county court.

Injunction An order made by a civil court telling someone they must not do something. If they breach (disobey) it, the person who took out the injunction can ask the court to punish them.

Parental responsibility All the rights and duties that go with parenthood, such as the duty to care for and protect the child, the right to consent to medical treatment, and the right to choose a child's name, religion and schooling.

Partner In this leaflet, partner means someone you are living with, either a husband, wife, civil partner or cohabitant. You may be part of a heterosexual (male-female) or a same-sex couple. Sometimes the law for cohabitants is different from that for people who are married or civil partners.

Return date A date on which a case has to come back to court for another hearing.

Service Delivery of court papers to someone who is involved in the case. For an injunction, the service must be personal – the papers must be handed to the person who is being served, by someone who can then prove to the court that they have been delivered. A solicitor or a court bailiff can arrange to personally serve papers.

Undertaking A solemn promise to a court. The promise is recorded in the court order and if it is broken, the person making the promise may be punished. However, making such a promise does not mean you are saying you are guilty of having done something in the past.

Further help

Community Legal Service Direct

Provides free information direct to the public on a range of common legal problems.

Call 0845 345 4 345

If you qualify for legal aid, get free advice from a specialist legal adviser about benefits and tax credits, debt, education, employment or housing. Also find a high quality local legal adviser or solicitor.

Click www.clsdirect.org.uk

Find a high quality local legal adviser or solicitor, link to other online information and see if you qualify for legal aid using our calculator.

Resolution

phone: 01689 820272
www.resolution.org.uk

The Law Society of England and Wales

phone: 020 7242 1222
www.lawsociety.org.uk

The Department for Constitutional Affairs

For useful leaflets for couples with children, and information about domestic violence
phone: 020 7210 8500
www.dca.gov.uk/family/famfr.htm

The Court Service website

For copies of forms and leaflets about injunctions and divorce
www.courtservice.gov.uk

Alcoholics Anonymous

phone: 0845 769 7555
www.alcoholics-anonymous.org.uk

Al Anon

phone: 020 7403 0888
www.al-anonuk.org.uk

Rights of Women

Confidential legal advice line for women, run by women
phone: 020 7251 6577
www.rightsofwomen.org.uk

National Association of Child Contact Centres

phone: 0845 4500 280
www.naccc.org.uk/

Relate

Offers relationship counselling, and is experienced in helping couples where domestic abuse is an issue
phone: 08451 304016
Local branches are listed in the phone book
www.relate.org.uk

Child Support Agency (CSA)

phone: 0845 7133 133
www.csa.gov.uk

Victim Support

www.victimsupport.org.uk
support line 0845 30 30 900

UK College of Family Mediators

phone: 0117 904 7223
www.ukcfm.co.uk

Reunite

phone: 0116 2556 234
www.reunite.org

Child Abduction Unit

phone: 020 7911 7045/7047

Freephone 24 hour National Domestic Violence Helpline run in partnership between Women's Aid and Refuge

phone: 0808 2000 247

Women's Aid

phone: 0808 2000 247
www.womensaid.org.uk

Refuge

phone: 0808 2000 247
www.refuge.org.uk

Welsh Women's Aid

phone: 0808 80 10 800
8am to 2pm and 8pm to 2am
www.welshwomensaid.org

The Home Office

You can download a copy of the Home Office leaflet 'Domestic violence – Financial control, emotional abuse' at www.crimereduction.gov.uk/dv08b.htm

The Community Legal Service

The Community Legal Service has been set up to help you find the right legal information and advice to solve your problems.

You can get help through a national network of organisations including Citizens Advice Bureaux, Law Centres, many independent advice centres and thousands of high street solicitors. All of these services meet quality standards set by the Legal Services Commission. Look for the Community Legal Service logo, shown below.

Many of the organisations offer some or all of their services for free. If you cannot afford to pay for advice you may be eligible for financial support through the Community Legal Service Fund (Legal Aid). You can order leaflets about funding from the LSC Leaflet line on 0845 3000 343. You can also use a Legal Aid eligibility calculator on the website: www.clsdirect.org.uk

*Community
Legal Service*



The Legal Services Commission (LSC)

The Community Legal Service and the Community Legal Service Fund are managed by the Legal Services Commission. To find out more about us visit our website at www.legalservices.gov.uk or find the details for your local Legal Services Commission office in the phone book.

legal services
COMMISSION

The leaflets are also available online at: www.clsdirect.org.uk

- 1 Dealing with Debt
- 2 Employment
- 3 Divorce and Separation
- 4 Renting and Letting
- 5 Buying and Selling Property
- 6 Losing your Home
- 7 The Human Rights Act
- 8 Claiming Asylum
- 9 Welfare Benefits
- 10 Wills and Probate
- 11 Dealing with the Police
- 12 No-win, No-fee Actions
- 13 Problems with Goods and Services
- 14 Medical Accidents
- 15 Equal Opportunities
- 16 Racial Discrimination
- 17 Personal Injury
- 18 Rights for Disabled People
- 19 Community Care
- 20 Education
- 21 Immigration and Nationality
- 22 Mental Health
- 23 Alternatives to Court
- 24 Family Mediation
- 25 Veterans
- 26 Domestic Violence, Abuse and Harassment**
- 27 Living Together and your Rights if you Separate
- 28 Dealing with Someone Else's Affairs
- 29 Care Proceedings
- 30 Neighbourhood and Community Disputes
- 31 Changing your Name

The leaflets are also available in Welsh, Braille and Audio.

To order any of these leaflets contact the LSC leaflet line on **0845 3000 343** or email LSCLeaflets@ecgroup.uk.com or Fax 020 8867 3225.



This leaflet is published by the Legal Services Commission (LSC). It was written in association with Imogen Clout, a solicitor specialising in family law.



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