

## **Key Considerations for People Seeking Legal Advice on Domestic Abuse**



### **Your immediate safety**

Tell your solicitor about any recent incidents, threats, stalking, harassment or behaviour that makes you concerned for your safety or that of your children. This can help establish whether urgent protective measures should be considered.



### **The behaviour you have experienced**

Domestic abuse is not limited to physical violence. Explain any patterns of controlling behaviour, threats, intimidation, financial control, monitoring, isolation or emotional abuse that may be relevant.



### **Any evidence that is safely available**

Messages, emails, photographs, police reference numbers, medical records or other documents may help provide context. A court application for a Non-Molestation or Occupation Order is also supported by a witness statement explaining what has happened.



### **Your children**

Let your solicitor know whether children have witnessed, heard or otherwise been affected by the abuse and whether there are currently arrangements for them to spend time with the other parent. The Domestic Abuse Act 2021 expressly recognises children who see, hear or experience the effects of domestic abuse as victims in their own right where the relevant criteria are met



### **Your current living arrangements**

Explain who currently lives in the family home, whether the property is owned or rented and whether you have any immediate concerns about returning home or the other person entering the property. This will help determine whether an Occupation Order or other action may be relevant.

 **Any police or court involvement**

Provide details of any previous police attendance, criminal proceedings, bail conditions, injunctions, child arrangements orders or other court proceedings. This information can be important when considering the most appropriate next steps.

 **Your access to money and essential documents**

Tell your solicitor if another person controls your income, bank accounts, borrowing, benefits, property or access to important documents. Economic abuse is specifically recognised within the statutory definition of domestic abuse.

 **How we can contact you safely**

Let us know if there are particular telephone numbers, email addresses or times that should or should not be used to contact you. Your safety and confidentiality should be considered when deciding how communications are managed.



**Chester Office**  
Knights Court  
1 Weaver Street  
Chester, Cheshire  
CH1 2BQ  
01244 354 800



**Liverpool Office**  
3rd Floor  
No. 4 St Paul's Square  
Liverpool  
L3 9SJ  
0151 321 0000