

Responding to disclosures of Domestic Abuse

If you are working for an agency that has internal domestic abuse procedures, please refer to those.

Consider referral to a colleague in your agency who can complete a DASH Risk Indicator Checklist.

Contact a member of your agency / organisations safeguarding team (if you have one) to discuss further steps if required

Imminent risk of serious harm to survivor or others:

Inform Police 999 Otherwise inform Police on 101

The Domestic Abuse Act (2021) defines domestic abuse as:

Abusive behaviour of one person towards another where both are personally connected* and aged over 16 years. Behaviour is abuse if it consists of: physical or sexual abuse, violent or threatening, controlling or coercive behaviours, economic abuse or psychological, emotional or other abuse. It does not matter whether the behaviour consists of a single incident or a course of conduct.

Young people under the age of 16 years experiencing domestic abuse would be covered by the child abuse legislation.

So called 'Honour Based Violence' (HBV): Honour-based abuse is a crime or incident committed to protect or defend the 'honour' of a family or community. This can include Forced Marriage.

Female Genital Mutilation (FGM): Female genital mutilation (FGM) comprises all procedures that involve partial or total removal of the external female genitalia, or other injury to the female genital organs for non-medical reasons.

* "personally connected" means married, divorced, civil partnership, engaged to be married, intimate personal relationship, related to, parents to the same child or are relatives.

For ALL disclosures of current domestic abuse:

- Document any disclosures of abuse
- Note any injuries

Male survivor's require a bespoke response:

Freeva 0808 802 0028, Option 2 for 'Male survivor support'

At any stage seek advice by contacting Freeva: 0808 802 0028 Option 5, [freeva.org.uk](https://www.freeva.org.uk)

[Forced Marriage Unit](#): 020 7008 0151

[Karma Nirvana](#) (forced marriage and honour crime): 0800 5999 247

[Galop](#) (if you identify as LGBT+): 0800 999 5428

It is essential that Domestic Abuse support services give specialist advice on an individual basis to survivors to ensure they understand their legal rights:

- Referral to Freeva for independent support and advice: [Click Here](#)
- Referral to NCDV for legal support and advice : [Click Here](#)
- Referral to Clares Law to check any previous domestic abuse from person accused of causing harm: [Click Here](#)

Children in household?

Report to Children's Services

Follow LLR Children's Safeguarding Partnership Procedures for Child Social Care referral: [Click Here](#)

All adults with care and support needs in household (including any survivor's and person accused of causing harm)

Follow LLR Safeguarding Adults Board Procedures for Adult social care referral: [Click Here](#)