

# Domestic Violence Protection Notices and Orders

## Information leaflet for perpetrator

### What happens if I do not follow the conditions of the DVPO?

You may be arrested and kept in custody. Within 24 hours (excluding Sundays and Bank Holidays) you will appear before a Magistrates' court and could be fined up to £5,000 and/or sent to prison for up to 2 months.

If you are in police custody for breach of a DVPN or DVPO then you will have access to free legal advice and assistance.

### Do I need legal representation?

If you want to be represented at your court hearing you should seek legal advice and assistance as soon as you can. If you are eligible, you may be able to get legal aid.

### Advice and Support services

If you want to:

- change your behaviour,
- understand your behaviour,
- understand how it affects your partner and children,
- stop your behaviour,

then seek help.

#### Respect

Tel: 0808 802 4040

Respect is the UK membership organisation for work with domestic violence perpetrators.

[www.respect.uk.net](http://www.respect.uk.net)

#### Avon and Somerset Support Services

A directory of support services in Avon and Somerset can be found at:

[www.impactpathways.org.uk](http://www.impactpathways.org.uk)

**Avon and Somerset Constabulary**  
Working together to make the communities of Avon and Somerset be safe and feel safe  
Call 101 or visit [www.avonandsomerset.police.uk](http://www.avonandsomerset.police.uk)



## Why have I been given a Domestic Violence Protection Notice (DVPN)?

We reasonably believe that you have been violent or have threatened violence against another person and that they need to be protected from you.

**The law allows us to give you a DVPN even if the other person does not agree to it.**

### What does this mean?

This will be explained to you as it can be different in different cases, but can:

- stop you from entering and being within a certain distance of your home;
- stop you from making the other person leave or stop you from keeping them out of your home;
- mean you to leave your home.

### What happens if we live at the same address?

If the DVPN says that you have to leave immediately then you must leave straight away. It doesn't matter if you live at the same address, but you will be able to take some of your belongings.

You will have to find somewhere else to stay, your local authority may be able to offer advice if you need it.

You will need to give us a different address and a contact telephone number where we can reach you in the next 48 hours.

### What happens if I do not follow the conditions of the DVPN?

You may be arrested, kept in police custody and then have to appear at a Magistrates' Court.

### What is a Domestic Violence Protection Order (DVPO)?

A Domestic Violence Protection Order (DVPO) is an order applied for by the police and made to the Magistrates' Court.

### Why might I have to go to court even though I followed the conditions of the DVPN?

When an application for a Domestic Violence Protection Order (DVPO) is made by the police to the Magistrates' Court you will then need to appear at court. A DVPO is an order which can go on for a longer period of time than a DVPN.

The court will hear this application within 48 hours (excluding Sundays and Bank Holidays) of you receiving a DVPN from the police, we will tell you when you need to be there.

If you do not attend the Magistrates' Court, then a DVPO can be made in your absence.

**Magistrates can make a DVPO against you even if the other person does not agree to it.**

### What happens at court?

All the evidence will be heard and you will be given the opportunity to ask questions and give evidence yourself. The Magistrates will consider this as well as the welfare of anyone under 18 who the police consider will be affected by the DVPO.

The Court will then decide whether to make a DVPO.

If an order is made it will last for a minimum of 14 days and a maximum of 28 days. The Order may:

- stop you from entering and being within a certain distance of your home;
- stop you from making the other person leave or stop you from keeping them from your home;
- mean you have to leave your home.