

# Domestic Violence Protection Notices and Orders

## Do I have to go to court?

No. You do not have to go to the Magistrates' Court hearing. The Magistrates can make a DVPO against the person without you being present.

## If I go to court do I have to give evidence?

No. You do not have to give evidence but you may choose to do so. If you do decide to give evidence you may be cross examined by the defence.

## What happens if the person does not follow the conditions of the DVPO?

You should call the police – if it is an emergency call 999.

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

## What other help can I get?

These orders have been introduced to make sure you are safe, and that you have space and time to consider the future, and access the help you may need from specialists.

You may now be feeling concerned about what happens next. There are a number of organisations that can help you.

You may need information about legal matters, housing or finances or to speak to someone about how you feel and concerns you have about your family.

### Women's Aid national domestic abuse helpline

Tel: 0808 2000 247

They will discuss the practical and legal options available and can refer you to a local Women's Aid refuge and advice service.

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

### ManKind

Tel: 01823 334244

Help and advice for men in abusive relationships.

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

### Broken Rainbow

Tel: 0300 999 5428

Help and advice regarding domestic abuse in the LGBT community.

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

## Information leaflet for victims

## Domestic Violence Protection Notice (DVPN)

The aim of a DVPN and a DVPO is to provide you with immediate protection following an incident of domestic violence and to give you time to consider what to do next.

You will be contacted by local specialist services that will provide advice and support about what help is available to you.

### What is a DVPN?

A Domestic Violence Protection Notice (DVPN) is a notice given to a person we reasonably believe has been violent or has threatened violence against you and that you need to be protected from them.

**The law allows the police to serve a DVPN on this person even if you do not agree to it.**

### What does a DVPN do?

A DVPN places certain conditions on the person which may:

- stop them from entering and being within a certain distance of your home;
- stop them from making you leave or excluding you from your home;
- mean they have to leave your home.

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

Then the DVPN requires them to leave immediately. They will be able to take with them possessions that they may need.

### What happens if the person does not follow the condition of the DVPN?

You should call the police – if it is an emergency call 999. The person may be arrested, kept in police custody and then brought before a Magistrates' Court.

A Police Superintendent will review all of the information and evidence and may decide for your safety that a Domestic Violence Protection Order should be applied for.

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

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

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

- stop them from entering and being within a certain distance of your home;
- stop them from making you leave or stop them from keeping you from your home;
- make them leave your home.

### When will the case go to court?

The Magistrates' Court will hear an application for a DVPO within 48 hours (excluding Sundays and Bank Holidays) of the person being served with a DVPN by the police.

If he or she does not attend the Magistrates' Court, then a DVPO can be made in his or her absence. The Magistrates will also take into account the welfare of anyone under 18 who the police consider will be affected by the DVPO.

**The law allows the Magistrates to make a DVPO against the person even if you do not agree to it.**