

DOMESTIC ABUSE – EMERGENCY ACTION

My partner has threatened or assaulted me. What should I do?

In any emergency situation where you are the victim of threats or actual violence, you should contact the police as soon as you can. Even if you already have a court order against your partner, when you require practical help in a crisis, call the police by dialling 999 in an emergency.

The non-emergency number for Fife Police is 0845 600 5702. The out of hours number for Fife Social Work Department is 08451 550099.

Fife Police have a Family Protection Unit who offer support and help to victims of abuse (children or adults). You can contact the FPU direct on 01383 312300 or visit their website at <http://www.fife.police.uk/default.aspx?page=1936&theme=default>

You should also consider contacting Women's Aid for help. Women's Aid offers advice, support and refuge accommodation to women who are victims of domestic abuse, and their children. You could look at the website for Fife Women's Aid <http://www.fifewomensaid.org.uk/> or for Scottish Women's Aid <http://www.scottishwomensaid.org.uk/>

The Scottish Government also has a useful website on domestic abuse - <http://www.survivorscotland.org.uk/>

Is there any help I can get for my violent partner?

If your partner really wants to get help for his abusive behaviour, there may be anger management counselling available locally. You should ask your GP or health visitor to point you in the right direction for this.

If you can't discuss things with your partner, or if he refuses to try to address his problems, you can consider taking action in court to obtain court orders to protect you from further abuse (see our factsheet "Domestic Abuse – Court Orders").

What will happen if the police charge my partner with assaulting me?

The police can arrest your partner if he has committed a criminal offence, such as assault or breach of the peace (which would include shouting and swearing at you and causing you to be frightened).

Once the incident is reported to the police, the matter is largely outwith your control. If the charges proceed, your partner will have to appear in court.

If your partner is arrested he may be kept in custody by the police until he can appear in court the next working day. You do not need a solicitor to represent you, but you may get help and support from Women's Aid <http://www.fifewomensaid.org.uk/> or from Victim Support.

What can I do after the emergency is over?

If you want to move out of your home, even temporarily, you may be able to get refuge accommodation through Women's Aid (see above).

You should get legal advice about obtaining a court order against your partner. See our factsheet "Domestic Abuse – Court Orders".