

All Police Stations are designated Safe Places. As a Safe Place Organisation we will:

- Support the Safe Place Campaign Pledge: never to commit, condone or stay silent about domestic abuse.
- Provide a safe place for victims of domestic abuse to confidentially access information.
- Acknowledge domestic abuse is a problem that impacts on all of us as a society, and will be prepared to play our part in supporting victims and state clearly to perpetrators that we will not tolerate abuse in our community.

Go to www.psnl.police.uk for more information including practical steps to be safe and secure.

Non-molestation and Occupation Orders

The Family Homes and Domestic Violence (NI) Order provides the Family Court with the power to issue non-molestation and occupation orders. A non-molestation order prevents you or your children from being molested by a partner or close family member. An occupation order regulates who lives in the family home and can require individuals to leave the home.

A solicitor can assist you to obtain an order. Legal Aid may be available to support this application.

Support agencies

There are several organisations which can help by offering emotional and practical support

24 Hour Free Phone Domestic and Sexual Violence Helpline

Freephone Helpline 0808 802 1414
(free from all landlines and mobiles)

The 24 Hour Domestic and Sexual Violence Helpline is available 24 hours, seven days a week to all women and men affected by domestic violence and sexual violence.

The Rowan

Freephone Helpline 0800 389 4424
(from all landlines only)

See 'Sexual Abuse' section for more information.

Victim Support

028 90 244 039

Victim Support NI helps people affected by crime. It offers a free and confidential service, whether or not a crime has been reported and regardless of how long ago the event took place.

Your case officer details

Officers name:

Station:

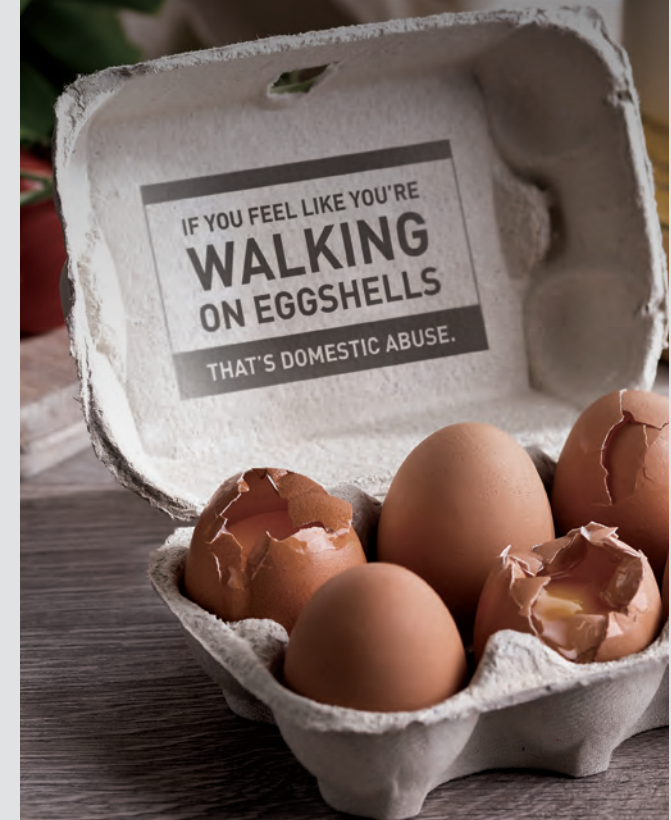
Contact number:

**CALL THE
POLICE 101**

IN AN EMERGENCY ALWAYS CALL 999

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Domestic abuse can take many forms and can affect anyone



Speak out to stop it



Keeping People Safe

Domestic abuse

Domestic abuse can be broadly defined as a pattern of threatening, violent or abusive behaviours (including coercive or controlling conduct) by a current or former intimate partner or family member.

This behaviour may be psychological, virtual, physical, verbal, sexual, financial or emotional in nature and inflicted on anyone (irrespective of age, ethnicity, religion, gender, gender identity, sexual orientation or any form of disability).

No-one should be subjected to any form of domestic abuse.

Remember, you are not to blame for any abuse that is happening to you.

Sexual abuse

If you have been sexually assaulted you can report this to the police directly who will arrange for you to visit the Rowan.

The Rowan is a specialist regional Sexual Assault Referral Centre which provides a range of services for people who have been raped or sexually assaulted.

Its services are available for men, women, children and young people.

Alternatively you can also access the Rowan directly via its contact number.

Children

Domestic abuse can have an impact on children (including unborn children) which may not be immediately obvious. Early intervention will ensure that any impact is kept to a minimum.

It is police policy to share information with the local Family and Child Care Manager where children are resident or present at home at the time of a domestic incident or where the victim is pregnant.

Contacting the police

The Police Service of Northern Ireland has a policy of positive action against perpetrators of domestic abuse.

On arrival at a domestic incident, the officer will conduct an investigation. If a crime has been committed, the officer will record a 'witness statement' from you at the time.

This statement is important as it may be used in evidence in court at a later date and so should contain as much information as possible about the incident.

If, due to circumstances, for instance, needing hospital treatment, you can't provide a statement at the time, police will contact you at a later date.

If the perpetrator has been arrested following the domestic incident, police can release him/her either with or without bail conditions.

Whilst there is a presumption in favour of bail, there are circumstances in which this can be refused:

There is a risk that the perpetrator will fail to appear; will interfere with the course of justice; will commit further offences; will be at risk of harm; or a risk to the preservation of public order, if released on bail.

Bail conditions may be placed on the perpetrator pre-charge, after charging or when at court (court imposed bail conditions). If any bail conditions are breached, the police may arrest the perpetrator. For those that are imposed after charging or by the court, the perpetrator will be taken to the next available court.

You may at a later date be required to attend court and give evidence if the defendant denies the charge and pleads 'not guilty' or pleads guilty, but denies an important part of the offence which might affect the type of sentence he or she receives.

Extra help, however, is available to support vulnerable or intimidated witnesses when giving evidence to relieve some of the stress and worry associated with giving evidence in court. In such instances, the Public Prosecution Service may apply to the court for permission to use 'special measures' to assist in giving evidence. Special measures include the use of screens, live-link television, removing wigs and gowns, giving evidence in private, etc.

**In an emergency
you should call 999**