

Useful contact numbers

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Gail Farrington gfarrington@hamers.com Higher Rights Advocat	01482 639630
Nigel Richardson nrichardson@hames.com Member of the Law Society Childrens Panel	01482 639632
Emergency Services	999
Police Non emergency	0845 6060 222
National Domestic Violence Helpline	0808 2000 247
Domestic Abuse Partnership (DAP)	01482 318759
Preston Road Women's Centre	01482 790310
Social Services – Preston Road	01482 318484
Hull Women's Centre	01482 226806
North Hull Women's Centre	01482 474094
Women's Aid	01482 446099
Victim Support	01482 587666
Social Services	01482 616161
Citizens Advice Bureau	01482 224608

**A Court Order can protect you.
It can help stop your suffering
and provide better safety.**

**At Hamers Solicitors we have
specialists ready to advise
you and if necessary
take Court action.**

**If you need help and advice
please call**

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**Are you suffering as a victim
of domestic violence?**

**Do you dread your
partner returning home?**

**Are you abused or afraid
of your partner or ex-partner?**

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What is domestic violence and harassment?

Domestic violence and harassment take many forms. For example, physical assault, rape, sexual abuse and intimidation as well as mental and verbal abuse. It is not uncommon for people to be afraid to ask for help.

Offenders may include existing partners, ex partners, relatives or unrelated parties. Domestic violence affects people of all ages, race, gender or sexuality.

What action can I take?

Where domestic violence or harassment is inflicted by an existing partner, former partner, a relative or an unrelated person, it is possible to apply to the Court for an Order that the domestic violence or harassment should stop. The Order will also state that violence, threats of violence or harassment should not take place in the future. The Order can protect you and your children and is called a Non Molestation Order.

The Court may, where appropriate, order the person responsible for the violence or harassment to leave a marital or co-habital home. The Court also has the power to prevent them from returning. This is called an Occupation Order.

The Court can order those who have been excluded from the home to pay specific household bills.

What do I have to prove?

It is necessary to show that violence has been threatened, suffered or harassment has taken place and there is a risk of "significant harm" towards you or your children. The strongest cases are those where there has been an act of violence in recent weeks.

If a person against whom an Order has been made fails to comply with it you should notify the police immediately. The police have the power to charge the individual concerned with criminal offences and take the case to Court. This may result in criminal convictions, the penalties for which include a fine or imprisonment.

It is also possible for the police to charge an individual with offences under the Protection from Harassment Act 1997. Again this may result in criminal proceedings being taken. The Court has the power to make a Non Molestation Order (Injunction Order) within such proceedings.

What about the cost?

We can immediately assess whether you are entitled to public funding (Legal Aid). In doing so we must consider your current income and the merits of the case. If you are eligible for public funding you may be required to make monthly contributions to the Legal Services Commission. At your initial appointment you will be asked to provide identification and a proof of income for this purpose.

If you are not sure whether you are eligible for public funding, do not worry. We are happy to provide an initial interview free of charge.

How long does it take?

In emergency cases we will offer you an appointment the same day. Otherwise we will try and arrange an appointment for you within 24 hours of your telephone call to us (Monday to Friday).

If an assault takes place at the weekend you should contact your local police station immediately.

In serious cases we can go to Court the same day or the following day.

What Hamers offers

- An appointment the same day in emergency cases
- An appointment within 24 hours in other cases
- Immediate public funding eligibility decision
- Quick, reliable expert advice
- A support service

