

CONTACT NUMBERS

WOLVERHAMPTON CRIMINAL JUSTICE SUPPORT SERVICE

0845 113 5000 ext.7871 6574

Mobile 0792 1700180

THE HAVEN WOLVERHAMPTON

01902 713001 (24 hour helpline for women and their children)

WITNESS SERVICE, MAGISTRATES COURT

01902 716427

WITNESS SERVICE, CROWN COURT

01902 423733

VICTIM SUPPORT

01902 572500

ASIAN WOMEN'S ADHIKAR ASSOCIATION

01902 571260

POLICE DOMESTIC VIOLENCE UNIT

0845 1135000

CROWN PROSECUTION SERVICE

01902 872800

PROBATION SERVICE, VICTIM'S UNIT

01902 576000

ALL SAINTS HAQUE CENTRE

01902 572111 (for free immigration and welfare advice)

CITIZENS ADVICE BUREAU

01902 572200

COMMUNITY LEGAL PARTNERSHIP

0845 608 1122 (for local Family Law solicitors' details)

IN AN EMERGENCY DIAL 999

Wolverhampton Criminal Justice Support Service

WDFV,

The Bingley Centre,

Norfolk Road, Pennfields,

Wolverhampton, WV3 0JE.

Tel: 0845 113 5000 EXT 7871 6574,

Mobile 0792 1700180

Wolverhampton Criminal Justice Support Service

is funded by the Safer Communities Initiative



Wolverhampton
Domestic Violence Forum

Domestic Violence and The Criminal Justice System

Wolverhampton Criminal Justice Support Service



Wolverhampton
Domestic Violence Forum

Working in partnership to tackle domestic violence

What happens when I report the domestic violence to the Police?

You have taken a very important step in reporting this to the Police. The Police

will ask you to make a statement and will collect evidence at the scene. Your details will be passed to the Police Domestic Violence Liaison Officer in your area who will be able to provide you with information about the Criminal Justice Support Service and other support services in Wolverhampton.

At this stage we would advise you to take a breather for a couple of days. This is to allow you time to think and consider your options. You can talk through your options with the Criminal Justice Support Services Co-ordinator.

The Criminal Justice Support Service (CJSS) offers help, advice and support to victims who have experienced domestic violence. The CJSS can support you through the Criminal Justice System and/or explore your legal options.

The CJSS provides the following services:

- One off or ongoing support through the Courts process
- Attendance at court or solicitors with you
- Tracking of cases and information about court hearings, bail conditions and what stage the case is at
- Liaison with the Crown Prosecution Service and the Courts on your behalf
- Liaison with other agencies and support services with you or on your behalf
- Information about Injunctions, Residence Orders and Occupation Orders
- Information about Contact Orders, parental responsibility and court welfare services
- Access to Victim Support, The Haven and support services for Asian women
- Access to interpreting services

DO I HAVE TO GO TO COURT?

You will not be expected to attend Court at the first hearing. However, if the offender pleads not guilty, you will be required to attend Court to give evidence at a trial.

In serious cases the offence is referred to the Crown Court for trial.

WHAT HAPPENS IF I CHANGE MY MIND ABOUT TAKING THE CASE TO COURT?

If you change your mind, the case can continue without your original complaint if there is enough supporting evidence. In some cases, the Court may still summons you to attend to give evidence.

WHAT HAPPENS TO THE OFFENDER AFTER I HAVE REPORTED THE INCIDENT?

The offender will be questioned about the incident and if it is decided to charge them they will be brought before the next available Court. At this first hearing, a decision will be made whether to allow the offender to be released on bail or held in custody. If the offender is released on bail, the Court can impose certain conditions to protect you and your family.

The offender's next Court hearing will take place in the Specialist Domestic Violence Court which is held every Tuesday at Wolverhampton Magistrates Court.

What is the Specialist Domestic Violence Court?

This is a new Court in Wolverhampton.

The Court sits every Tuesday to hear cases of domestic violence.

The Court provides:

- Separate entrances (on request)
- Separate waiting areas for victims and witnesses
- Criminal Justice Support Staff and access to other agencies
- Witness Service Support staff who can organise pre-court visits and assist you in Court
- Magistrates who have received training around domestic violence
- Domestic Violence Police Officers in attendance
- Access to workers who can support the needs of diverse communities

WHAT WILL HAPPEN WHEN I ATTEND COURT TO GIVE EVIDENCE?

When you arrive at Court, you should report to the security staff at the main entrance. They will ask you your name and the name of the offender. A simple security check will be made of your belongings.

You will then be escorted to a secure waiting room. Witness Service staff and other support workers will be there.

The Witness Service is a free and confidential service. Trained volunteers will be on hand to provide support before, during and after the Hearing.

The Witness Service can:

- Offer practical information on what is going to happen during the hearing
- Accompany you into the Courtroom if you wish
- Make special transport and access arrangements for you
- Provide you with refreshments while you are waiting
- Direct you to the toilet facilities in the waiting area

Witness Service staff cannot discuss evidence or provide any legal advice.

A Police Domestic Violence Liaison Officer and the Criminal Justice Support Services Co-ordinator will also be available in the Specialist Domestic Violence Court.

WHAT HAPPENS AFTER THE HEARING?

This depends on the seriousness of the offence and whether the offender has previous convictions. Sentences are not always passed on the day of the trial and the case may be adjourned again to consider reports about the offender's personal situation.

Sentences can range from a conditional discharge to a prison sentence and can vary in length. In some cases, an assessment is made into the offender's suitability to attend a domestic violence perpetrator programme. This is a programme run by the Probation Service to address the offender's behaviour.

If the offender has been placed on a perpetrator programme, you can receive support from the Probation Service Victim's Unit who will contact you directly.

If the offender receives a sentence of 12 months or more, the Probation Service will keep you informed if the offender breaches any of the terms of the sentence, is released early from prison, or if there are any changes in the offender's circumstances which are likely to affect you.

You may also receive compensation at the discretion of the Magistrate or Judge.

If the offender is found not guilty and you continue to be concerned about your safety, please talk to the Criminal Justice Support Services Co-ordinator. She will be able to help you find a local solicitor to discuss the possibility of injunctions or other restrictions under the Family Law Act. You may also be able to get help with security measures for your home and the CJSS Co-ordinator will be able to advise on who to contact.

If you continue to be harassed, intimidated, threatened or physically abused, please do not hesitate to contact the Police again.