



Domestic Abuse and Covid-19

1. The effect of Covid-19 on domestic abuse.

Abuse can increase during Pandemics and this includes domestic abuse. The impact of Covid-19 and the isolation measures imposed, can adversely affect victims of domestic abuse and their children.

2. Why does domestic abuse increase in Pandemics?

Financial pressures and restrictions to social life can cause additional pressure within the home. Measures such as home-working, school closures and social distancing also mean victims spend much more time at home with their abusers, away from family, friends and other sources of support.

7. Where can I find out more?

SafeLives have produced guidance specific to Covid -19 and domestic abuse.

<https://safelives.org.uk/news-views/domestic-abuse-and-covid-19>



3. Why it is important

It is possible that victims are under-reporting as they are afraid that services will be unable to support them in the midst of COVID-19. However, domestic abuse services are still operating, the police Will attend domestic abuse calls and victims can breach lockdown rules to access support. Victims should be reassured they can still ask for help

6. Will I have to self-isolate with my abuser after calling the police?

The Police can apply for a Domestic Violence Protection Order through the court within 48 hours, which would prevent the abuser from returning to the home within 28 days. These orders are still processed the usual way.

When granted, this gives an opportunity to put longer-term plans in place for after the 28-day period

5. If you don't need to call the police

EDANLincs are the county wide domestic abuse support service in Lincolnshire. Their support includes, safety planning, support for your children, understanding about relationships, refuge accommodation

<https://edanlincs.org.uk/>
or the national domestic abuse helpline on 0808 2000 247

4. How do you report domestic abuse?

As always, victims of domestic abuse can call 999 in an emergency. There is an option to remain silent should they be afraid of being heard by the abuser; pressing 55 on their phone keypad will indicate to the call handler that they need the police. This is called the "Silent Solutions System".