# What is domestic abuse?

**Domestic Abuse Act 2021**

*Behaviour of a person (“A”) towards another person (“B”) is “domestic abuse” if—*

*(a)A and B are each aged 16 or over and are personally connected to each other, and*

*(b)the behaviour is abusive.*

*(3)Behaviour is “abusive” if it consists of any of the following—*

*(a)physical or sexual abuse;*

*(b)violent or threatening behaviour;*

*(c)controlling or coercive behaviour;*

*(d)economic abuse*

(e)psychological, emotional or other abuse;

**It does not matter whether the behaviour consists of a single incident or a course of conduct**.

*Personally Connected is defined as:*

* 1. they are, or have been, married to each other;
  2. they are, or have been, civil partners of each other;
  3. they have agreed to marry one another (whether or not the agreement has been terminated);
  4. they have entered into a civil partnership agreement (whether or not the agreement has been terminated);
  5. they are, or have been, in an intimate personal relationship with each other;
  6. they each have, or there has been a time when they each have had, a parental relationship in relation to the same child (see subsection (2));
  7. they are relatives.

Please contact the Housing IDVA via :

[IDVA.Referrals@cambridgeshire.gov.uk](mailto:IDVA.Referrals@cambridgeshire.gov.uk)

The Housing IDVAs only accept referrals and enquiries from professionals. They do not accept self-referrals.

**Referrals to the Housing IDVA must be in relation to domestic abuse that the survivor is currently experiencing or has experienced in the last three months, or in relation to a recent**

**increase in risk to the survivor that they have disclosed such as a perpetrator being released from prison.**

# *Emergency contacts*

111 option 2 for mental health crisis team

101 for non-emergency police

999 in an emergency, then 55 if unable to speak

# Provide your teams out of hours housing number.

**NATIONAL domestic Abuse helpline**

Freephone **0808 2000 247**

**MEN’S ADVICE Line** Support for male victims **0808 801 0327**

**GALOP S**upport for LGBTQ+ victims

**0800 999 5428**

**HOURGLASS –** Support for older victims

**0808 808 8141**

**National Stalking Helpline** 0808 802 0300



**Housing IDVA**

**Information**

**for professionals**



***What is an IDVA?***

An IDVA (Independent Domestic Violence Advisor) works with current victims of domestic abuse to:

* identify and assess risks
* understand and access options
* devise bespoke safety plans
* navigate criminal and civil justice processes

They have an in-depth understanding of the dynamics of domestic abuse, including the impact on victim/survivors and the tactics and behaviours of perpetrators. They provide practical advice and emotional support to victim/survivors of domestic abuse, acting as their advocate when needed.

***What is a Housing IDVA?***

**Housing IDVA’s are the same as IDVA’s – their client base comes largely from housing professionals. Housing IDVAs work closely with Housing teams and local Housing Associations and are co-located at** Hunts District Council (Thursday), Cambridge City Council (Tues), East Cambs District Council(Weds) and linked in with Fenland District Council and Peterborough City Council.

***What can IDVA’s help with?***

* IDVAs support with safety planning, they are a voluntary service and work with survivors to help them feel safer in various ways. You could have a chat about what might be available to you.
* IDVAS can support to reduce the risk to survivors/children by putting things in place for and/or advising of options.
* Support with general safety, police, housing, orders, liaising with other agencies, target hardening, advocating on survivor’s behalf with other agencies.

# *What is a MARAC?*

MARAC is a multi-agency risk assessment

conference to review the highest risk DA cases.

The referral forms (DASH) can be downloaded from our website under the ‘Professionals’ section: <http://www.cambsdasv.org.uk/>

***How to ask if somebody would like***

***IDVA support?***

What you are telling me sounds really tough, would you like me to share your

details with a team who specialise in domestic abuse? They might be able to provide some support with what you are experiencing.

Do you consent to me sharing your details with a Domestic Abuse support service who can have a chat with you about things, as I’m really worried about you?

Would you be open to any support for what you are going through at the moment? I can share your details with a team who can help.

***General safety planning you could do with an individual if they do not want support:***

Ensure you (and children’s) important documents are in one place so you can grab and go if needed - ID, bank cards, birth certificates and utility bills etc

Pack an emergency bag if it is safe to hide this somewhere or leave it with a friend/family member.

* Speak to them about identifying a safe person to

call in an emergency

* Arrange code words with friends/family to call police
* Identify a safe place that they can go in an emergency and emergency money
* Keep phone fully charged or keep a spare one somewhere
* They could arrange a code word with children and

ensure they know how to phone police

* Think about how they can escape their property –

keep a spare set of keys, which room can they get

out of more easily windows, doors etc?

***General tips for difficult conversations:***

I understand this must be hard for you, thank you for

sharing it with me.

I am worried about you, and I know the IDVA team

would be able to offer some further advice if that

would be helpful for you.

I understand that you might not want to talk to the police,

I know this can be scary.

You are brave for talking about this.

What you are telling me sounds worrying, would

you be happy for me to do a risk assessment with

you and refer to the IDVA team? (complete DASH).