

What if I am still worried about my safety?

If you continue to be concerned about your safety, talk to the CJ IDVA or the Police. They may be able to help you find a solicitor, discuss the possibility of injunctions or other restrictions under the Family Law Act, help get security measures for your home and advice on who to contact for further support.

**In an Emergency
ALWAYS call 999**

If you need further information about the court process, please contact the CJ IDVA directly:

Phone: 01902 555276

Mobile: 07921 700 180

Email:

CJIDVA@wolverhampton.gov.uk



west midlands
police and crime
commissioner



Useful Numbers

Criminal Justice (IDVA)

01902 555276 or 07921 700180

The Haven

08000 194 400 (24 hour helpline)

West Midlands Police

101 or 999 (Emergencies)

Witness Service, Magistrates Court

01902 716427

Witness Service, Crown Court

01902 423733

Victim Support

01902 712992

Asian Women's Adhikar Association

(AWAAZ) 01902 571260

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' advice)

Domestic Violence and the Criminal Justice System

Information for anyone needing support through the court system, relating to domestic violence



Wolverhampton Domestic Violence Forum

Working in partnership to tackle domestic violence

Wolverhampton Domestic Violence Forum
PO Box 4984, Wolverhampton WV1 9GE
Registered Charity No: 1071013

Criminal Justice Independent Domestic Violence Advisor (CJ IDVA)

The CJ IDVA provides the following services:

- Discuss your case, your attendance at court and measures available for your safety
- Support through the Court process and keep you up to date with progress
- Liaison with the Crown Prosecution Service, Courts and other agencies on your behalf
- Information about protection and family court orders
- Access to interpreting service

What happens at the first hearing? Do I need to attend?

You do not have to attend Court at the first hearing. The alleged offender will be brought before the Specialist Domestic Violence Court and either released on bail or held in custody.

If the alleged offender is released on bail, the Court can impose conditions to protect you and your family. **If these conditions are broken, report them to the Police.**

If the alleged offender pleads not guilty, you will be required to attend Court to give evidence at a trial. Support is available leading up to the trial, on the day, and afterwards.

What is the Specialist Domestic Violence Court?

This is a specialist court in Wolverhampton that sits every week to hear domestic violence cases.

The Court has:

- Criminal Justice Independent DV Advisor
- Separate entrances and waiting areas for victims and witnesses on request
- Access to Criminal Justice, Witness Service Support and other agencies. Pre court visits can be arranged.
- Magistrates, District Judges, and professionals who have received training around domestic violence

What will happen when I attend Court to give evidence at the trial?

The CJ IDVA will discuss the plan for your attendance at court and can attend with you.

The CJ IDVA or trained volunteers provided by the Court will be on hand to support you before, during and after the Hearing. Volunteers and Witness Care cannot discuss evidence or provide legal advice, but will offer practical information on what is going to happen during the hearing and accompany you into the Courtroom if you wish.

What happens if I change my mind about going to court?

Proceeding with the case is the decision of the Crown Prosecution Service. The Court may still summons you to give evidence and in some instances the case will continue without you if there is enough supporting evidence.

What happens after the Hearing?

The case may be adjourned to consider reports so that an appropriate sentence can be passed. You can provide a Victim Impact Statement for your views to be considered. Please ask the CJ IDVA to help you do this.

Sentences can range from a conditional discharge to a prison sentence and may include attending a domestic violence perpetrator programme. In some cases you may receive compensation at the discretion of the Court.

When the Probation Services is involved, they will inform you if the offender breaches any terms of their sentence, is released early from prison, or if there are any changes in the offender's circumstances which affect you.

If the outcome is a not guilty verdict or the case is dismissed, you may still be able to obtain a restraining order to prevent any further problems. The CJ IDVA will discuss this with you.