

VICTIM SUPPORT

Victim Support offers information and confidential support to victims of crime, including domestic abuse, reported or otherwise. They can also provide information on the criminal justice system, including pre-court visits and assistance with compensation claims.

Tel: 01896 751212

Email: Victimsupport.sb@lineone.net

LETSBSAFE2

LetSBsafe2 is a domestic abuse outreach project specifically for children and young people who are, or have experienced domestic abuse.

Tel: 01750 22892

Email: ettrick@children1st.org.uk

POLICE

Domestic abuse is a criminal offence which the police will treat as a high priority. While their primary role is to prevent and investigate crimes, the overriding concern of the attending officers is to ensure the safety and well being of you, your children and any other person present. The police will do everything in their power to assist you.

You can also talk to the Domestic Abuse Liaison Officer. This person is a specially trained police officer (not in uniform) who understands that everyone's situation is different and offers support and guidance to help you make choices and access other services that can help. They will provide you with information about your legal rights and legal options and explain court and police procedures. They can contact you by phone or letter and also meet with you at your home or somewhere that is safe for you.

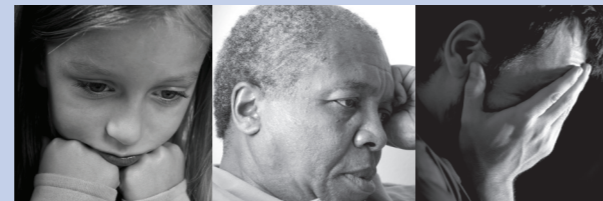
HOMELESSNESS SERVICES

If you are made homeless through domestic abuse and require temporary accommodation, Scottish Borders Council's Homelessness Service will provide you and your children with somewhere to stay until you're assessed or until you have found your own accommodation or you have been offered permanent accommodation by local Registered Social Landlords. The Homelessness Service can be contacted on freephone 0800 376 1138 or 01835 865180.

You can get this document on tape, in large print, and various other formats by contacting us at the address below. In addition, contact the address below for information on language translations, additional copies, or to arrange for an officer to meet with you to explain any areas of the publication that you would like clarified.

BUSINESS CONSULTANCY UNIT

Scottish Borders Council | Newtown St Boswells TD6 0SA
tel: 01835 824000 | www.scotborders.gov.uk



USEFUL NUMBERS

National Domestic Abuse Helpline	0800 027 1234
Police (in an emergency)	999
Police (ask for the Domestic Abuse Liaison officer)	01450 375051
Border Women's Aid	01835 863514
Childline	0800 1111
Respect Helpline	0845 122 8609
Male Victim Helpline	0808 801 0327
The Samaritans	01750 2000
Victim Support	01896 751212
LetSBsafe (based at Border Women's Aid)	01835 863878
LetSBsafe2 (based at Children 1st)	01750 22892
Citizens Advice Bureau	01896 753889
Borderline	0800 027 4466
Homelessness Service	0800 376 1138 01835 865180
NHS24	0845 424 2424
Emergency Duty Social Work	01896 752111
Rape Crisis Scotland helpline	08088 01 03 02
Scottish Borders Rape Crisis Centre (Office)	0800 054 2445 01896 661070
SBHA	01750 724444
Eildon Housing	01750 725900
Waverley Housing	01450 364237
Berwickshire Housing	01361 883115

Consult the telephone directory for your local Health Centre or GP.

All contact numbers valid until 1 April 2012.

This leaflet was produced by the Violence Against Women Partnership and funded by the Safer Communities Partnership.



Our Scottish Borders
Your community



DOMESTIC ABUSE & THE LAW

DOMESTIC ABUSE - THERE'S NO EXCUSE



THE LAW IS THERE TO PROTECT YOU IN A NUMBER OF DIFFERENT WAYS.

Domestic abuse is a criminal offence. Assault is a criminal offence – no matter who has hit you. So is rape, sexual assault, vandalism or threats.

YOU HAVE THE RIGHT TO BE FREE FROM HARASSMENT.

The help described in this leaflet is available to you regardless of race, religion and belief, sexuality, gender, age or disability and whether or not you are married or have children, or do not speak English. You do not need to be living together to suffer from domestic abuse.

CRIMINAL LAW

If you or your children have been physically, verbally or sexually abused by your partner/ex-partner, the police may detain or arrest them. All police forces in Scotland treat domestic abuse seriously, so don't be afraid to contact them for help. In an emergency, call 999. For non-emergency matters, call Hawick Police Station on 01450 375051 (ask for the Domestic Abuse Liaison Officer).

If a case is submitted to the Procurator Fiscal and there is sufficient evidence to go to court, the court may decide to impose certain conditions: preventing your partner/ex-partner from contacting, communicating with or approaching you or limiting their movements. This can give you protection and time to consider what to do next. If anyone is convicted of an offence it is open to the court, in certain circumstances, to make a non-harassment order.

CIVIL LAW

There is also civil law protection available. You can apply to the court, using a solicitor, for an interdict. This is a court order which prohibits your partner/ex-partner from doing anything set out in the order. It may say that your partner/ex-partner can't come within a certain distance of your home, or shout at you and threaten you. You can also apply to the court for a civil non-harassment order. You can also apply for an exclusion order, which means your partner/ex-partner has to leave the house. You and any children can then stay in the family home. Your local solicitor will be able to advise you if this applies to you. In some circumstances, you can apply for a matrimonial interdict with a power of arrest attached. This allows the police to arrest your partner/ex-partner if the terms of the interdict have been broken.

WHO CAN HELP

There are people who can help you, who understand what you have been going through. They won't blame you for what has happened, or try to make you do what they think you should do. They will let you talk, give you any information you need, and help you decide what to do next. You can contact them as often as you need to.

BORDER WOMEN'S AID *(This is a women only service)*

Border Women's Aid (BWA) provides free and confidential information, support and a safe refuge for women and children who have experienced domestic abuse from partners or ex-partners. You will receive emotional and practical support to talk about your situation and explore the options available to you - this may be in relation to healthcare, education, benefits or housing. Our Children's Service helps children and young people understand what they have experienced through support and guidance with fun and educational activities provided during school holidays.

The BWA refuge provides each family with their own private bedroom, plenty of storage space and a TV. The house is clean, modern and comfortable and very child friendly and is shared by women in similar circumstances. Experienced staff are on hand to support you and your children.

A drop-in service takes place between 10am-12noon Monday, Wednesday and Friday where you can come and discuss any concerns or issues you may have. You can contact us as often as you need to.

10 Exchange Street
Jedburgh TD8 6BH
Tel: 01835 863514
Email: info@borderwomensaid.co.uk

HEALTH SERVICES

If you have previously or are currently experiencing domestic abuse, whether it's of a physical, sexual, mental or emotional nature, you can contact a range of health service staff for confidential advice, support and guidance.

Health service staff can provide a quiet and confidential place to allow you the opportunity to talk on your own. They will take your concerns seriously and will offer support, advice & information on other sources of help and can refer to appropriate agencies.

INTEGRATED CHILDREN'S SERVICES

Advice and support is available from the Integrated Children's Service which is based in five local offices where Social Work, Education, Police and Health staff all work together. The team will be aware of any domestic abuse incidents reported to the police, and if you have any children, they may contact you to ensure:

- the ongoing safety of those living at home, particularly your children
- you understand how domestic abuse affects your children both in the short and long term
- you have advice, assistance and guidance about what services are available to all family members.

6 Newtown Street, Duns TD11 3DT
Tel: 01361 886115

Rose Lane, Kelso TD5 7AP
Tel: 01573 223501

10-12 Galapark, Galashiels TD1 1EU
Tel: 01896 661880

Town Hall, High Street, Hawick TD9 9EF
Tel: 01450 364777

Memorial Hall, Innerleithen EH44 6HX
Tel: 01896 833489