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DOMESTIC VIOLENCE

It is a sad fact of some relationships that one party can become aggressive, controlling and even violent towards the other and sometimes, the children. It is said that one of the most dangerous times for a domestic violence victim is when they try to leave the relationship; and a victim can have tried to leave on a number of occasions.

Direct assistance can of course be obtained from the Police – if you are in danger, ring 999. Don't hesitate about it – domestic violence is a crime and should not be tolerated. Police training is much improved from some years ago when domestic violence was not always taken seriously – most Police authorities have specific domestic violence units with specially trained Officers. The Police can also serve a harassment notice on a person as well, warning them to stop their behaviour or face possible prosecution.

Domestic violence doesn't just mean somebody is being violent towards another person – it also (and usually does) include aggressive behaviour, harassment or intimidation. So behaviour like constantly ringing or texting is included, or regularly driving by the house and staring in.

As well as Police proceedings, the civil Court can make Orders to prevent violent or aggressive behaviour, and to remove someone from a property.

A non-molestation Order is where a person is ordered not to use or threaten violence; and not to intimidate, harass or pester another person.

An occupation Order is where a person is ordered to leave a property; or to allow the other person to return to live in the property. The Court can also make provision for payment of the household outgoings, for example, within an occupation order.

Depending on the circumstances, these Orders can be obtained on an emergency basis, sometimes without the other person being notified of that first hearing.

If you need help to deal with domestic violence, ring us at JLS Solicitors – visit our contact us page for our details.

There are a number of authorities and charities who try to help domestic violence victims – we simply name two here; one is your local CAB who can put you in touch with local help in your area.

The other is the National Centre for Domestic Violence whose website details can be found on our useful links page.