

Domestic abuse housing options



Domestic abuse is not just physical violence, it happens where a family member, partner or ex-partner controls you through things like bullying verbal abuse, sexual violence, not letting you have money or keeping you isolated from seeing your friends or family.

This factsheet looks at your housing options if you are a woman or man at risk of domestic abuse where you live. You can get confidential advice from:

Helplines

- National centre for domestic violence: **0800 970 2070**
- National domestic violence helpline: **0808 200 0247**
- National lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender helpline: **0800 999 5428**
- Men's advice line: **0808 801 0327**
- Shelter: **0800 800 4444**

If your personal safety is threatened, call the police on 999.

Emergency accommodation

If you are a woman experiencing domestic abuse and you want a place in refuge, call the national domestic violence helpline on the number above. A refuge is an emergency safe house for women and children where you can get support until something longer-term can be arranged.

You will probably be offered a place in refuge immediately, but the refuge is likely to be away from your local area.

There are a small amount of refuge places for men. Please call the men's advice line for more information.

Apply as homeless

If you can't remain in your home because you are at risk of domestic abuse, you can register as homeless to any local council. If the local council has to find you somewhere else to live, it will be in temporary accommodation and you might not get anywhere permanent for a period of time. Even if the council does not house you, it must give you advice on other options.

Get an injunction

An injunction is a court order that forbids your abuser coming to your home or orders them to leave it. They can be arrested if they break the terms. Call the national centre for domestic violence for free advice about getting an injunction.

Staying put

If you can't or don't want to leave your home and are at continued risk of abuse, the helplines can tell you about local support groups or services. They can also advise on safety planning. For example, you could leave an emergency bag and money with a friend in case you need to flee your home suddenly.

Make your home safer

To improve your safety at home you could:

- Change the locks on doors and windows and install an outside security light
- Contact your local council for advice as they might be able to help you

Get the home in your name

In some situations, the courts will transfer the home into your name, even if your partner is currently the sole owner or tenant. This is more likely to be agreed if you have children. A family law solicitor can advise you on this.

Call the civil legal advice helpline on **0345 345 4345** to find out if you qualify for legal aid.

Ask for a transfer or exchange

If you are a council or housing association tenant, you can apply for a transfer or mutual exchange. Ask your landlord how to register for any schemes they offer. You should ask any one moving in to your home not to disclose where you have gone.

Find private rent

Private landlords usually ask for a deposit and rent in advance, as well as a reference. Newcastle Housing Advice can advise on you finding a rented home.

Further advice

You can get further advice from Shelter's free* housing advice helpline **0800 800 4444**, at your local citizens advice office, or by visiting www.shelter.org.uk/advice or www.citizensadvice.org.uk



**calls are free from UK landlines and main mobile networks*

Note: Information contained in this factsheet is correct at the time of publication. Please check details before use. April 2018

Newcastle Housing Advice

61-63 Lower Street, Newcastle Under Lyme, Staffs, ST5 2RS Telephone: **0345 850 9698**.
www.nhaoptions.co.uk



Newcastle Housing Advice is a service provided by Midland Heart on behalf of Newcastle Borough Council