

Access support

Refuge–Warwickshire Domestic Violence Service supports male victims with a variety of needs. For example we support men: who speak English is an additional language; with disabilities; with drug and alcohol issues; who identify as gay, bisexual, transgender, queer, questioning or intersex.

Please call the **Refuge–Warwickshire Domestic Violence Service** to discuss, in confidence, any fears or concerns you may have. We can give you information about your options and we can help you keep safe.

Contact the Refuge–Warwickshire team for support:

0800 408 1552

(Monday-Friday 8:30am-8:30pm; Saturday and Sunday 8.00am-4.00pm)

A voicemail service operates on this number and is checked regularly.

Email us – dvs@refuge.org.uk

Visit Refuge–Warwickshire Domestic Violence Service website:

<http://www.refuge.org.uk/what-we-do/our-services/refuge-warwickshire-domestic-violence-service/>

You can also call the Men's Advice Line (managed by Respect) on **0808 801 0327** for additional support.

If you are in immediate danger call 999.

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**WARWICKSHIRE AGAINST
DOMESTIC ABUSE**



www.refuge.org.uk

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**Refuge–Warwickshire
Domestic Violence Service**

How can Refuge help you?

At Refuge we recognise that domestic violence can affect everyone and anyone. Nobody should have to live in fear.



If you are experiencing domestic violence the Refuge–Warwickshire Domestic Violence Service can support you and your children to keep safe.

This is a community-based support service delivered by a team of independent domestic violence advocates (IDVAs) and outreach workers. This leaflet describes the support we give to men who are experiencing domestic violence aged 16 or over.

The service provides:

- Independent domestic violence advocates who can support you through the courts and criminal justice system
- Outreach support
- Sanctuary scheme support to add additional security to a property. This could include additional locks on windows and doors, a door chain, spy hole in the door, fireproof letter box and smoke detector
- Domestic violence drop-in support, held at locations across Warwickshire, to give men the opportunity to meet with one of our experts
- A helpline providing support to men experiencing domestic violence
- A GP surgery-based domestic violence support and referral programme (called IRIS)

We will work with you to create a tailor-made safety and support plan which could include:

- Personal safety information
- Support to contact the police
- Support accessing the criminal justice system, for example attending court, or advocating for a restraining order
- Information in relation to child contact
- Information about safe housing options
- Referrals to other services
- The opportunity to discuss the effects of domestic violence with someone who understands

Services are available throughout Warwickshire – Nuneaton and Bedworth, North Warwickshire, Rugby, Warwick District and Stratford Upon Avon.

The service we offer is confidential and free.

What is domestic violence?

Domestic violence is an abuse of power. It is systematic, patterned behaviour on the part of the abuser designed to control his or her partner.

Domestic violence can include physical, sexual, psychological, verbal, emotional, economic and technological abuse. Remember non-physical forms of abuse can be as destructive and as undermining as physical violence.

Domestic violence is rarely a one-off: incidents generally become more frequent and more severe over time.

Domestic violence is against the law. Everyone has the right to live in safety, free from fear and violence.

Remember:

- The abuse is not your fault. You are not to blame for your partner's behaviour – only they are responsible
- Domestic violence is against the law
- Everyone has a right to live a life free from violence and abuse
- You do not have to deal with this on your own – seeking support is a brave and positive step
- If you are experiencing domestic violence you are not alone
- Refuge is here to support you

Who are we?

Refuge is the country's largest provider of specialist domestic and gender based violence services. Our services change and save lives. We opened the world's first safe house for abused women and children in West London in 1971. Our national network of services supports over 5,000 women, children and men on any given day.*

If you are being abused, Refuge's expert staff can provide confidential, non-judgmental support. We can help you rebuild your life free from fear.



*Accurate as of September 2017