

Domestic Abuse Act 2021

On 29th April 2021 the [Domestic Abuse Act 2021](#) received Royal Assent. The consultation on the [Domestic abuse: draft statutory guidance framework](#) has closed and we are awaiting for the finalised guidance to be released.

The Home office has published the [Domestic Abuse Act 2021 commencement schedule](#) which is being updated as the provisions of the bill are introduced or revised.

This copy of the [Domestic Abuse Act 2021 commencement schedule](#) as of the 25th April 2022 contains the schedule with the links to the fact sheets or the provisions set out in the legislation.

Note that some of the provisions are the start of a timescale in which something has to be done or is the start of a pilot for that area of work which may in turn lead to a national roll out.

The Home Office is in the process of reviewing the [Statutory Guidance Framework: Controlling or Coercive Behaviour in an Intimate or Family Relationship](#) and also work is beginning on updating the non statutory Information Guide: Adolescent to Parent Violence and Abuse (APV/A) referred to in the Act as Child-to-Parent Abuse (CPA).

[The Domestic Abuse Act 2021 \(Commencement No. 2\) Regulations 2021](#) have brought in the following

Provisions that came into force on 1st October 2021

2. The following provisions of the Act came into force on 1st October 2021—
 - (a) [section 1](#) (definition of “domestic abuse”) so far as not already in force;
 - (b) [section 2](#) (definition of “personally connected”) so far as not already in force;
 - (c) [section 3](#) (children as victims of domestic abuse) **only for the purposes** of [section 63](#) (special measures in family proceedings: victims of domestic abuse) and [Part 4](#) (Local Authority support);
 - (d) [section 63](#) (special measures in family proceedings: victims of domestic abuse);
 - (e) [Part 4](#) (Local Authority support including the requirement to appoint domestic abuse local partnership board for the purposes of providing advice to the authority [section 58](#)).

Provisions that came into force on 1st November 2021

3. The following provisions of the Act came into force on 1st November 2021—
 - (a) [section 3](#) (children as victims of domestic abuse) **only for the purposes** of [section 79](#) (grant of secure tenancies in cases of domestic abuse);
 - (b) [Part 2](#) (the Domestic Abuse Commissioner);
 - (c) [section 79](#) (grant of secure tenancies in cases of domestic abuse);
 - (d) [section 84](#) (power of Secretary of State to issue guidance about domestic abuse, etc).

[The Domestic Abuse Act 2021 \(Commencement No. 3\) Regulations 2022](#) brought in the following

Provisions that came into force on 31st January 2022

[Section 3 Children as victims of domestic abuse](#) [Statutory definition of domestic abuse factsheet - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](#) Updated 31 January 2022 this was updated to recognise Children as Victims:

We recognise the devastating impact that domestic abuse can have on children who experience its effects in their own home. Part 1 of the Act provides that a child who sees or hears, or experiences the effects of, domestic abuse and is related to or under parental responsibility of the person being abused or the perpetrator is also to be regarded as a victim of domestic abuse. This means that where the Act imposes a duty in relation to victims of domestic abuse, this will include children as described in Part 1. This will help to ensure that locally commissioned services consider and address the needs of children affected by domestic abuse.

Supporting Guidance and recent Domestic Abuse publications from [Gov.uk](#)

[Tackling Domestic Abuse Plan](#) The government's plan will drive down the prevalence of domestic abuse and domestic homicide and provide victims and survivors with the support they need.

[Commissioning services to tackle violence against women and girls](#) national statement of expectations and commissioning toolkit provide guidance on how to commission effective services to tackle violence against women and girls.

[Supporting male victims of crimes considered violence against women and girls](#) policy paper setting out the government's position on and work to support male victims of crimes considered violence against women and girls.

[Victim of rape and sexual assault abroad](#) Information for British nationals affected by rape or sexual assault abroad, including how to access medical treatment and legal advice in the UK.

[Domestic abuse support within safe accommodation](#) - Statutory guidance underpinning the new duties on local authorities relating to the provision of accommodation-based support to domestic abuse victims and their children.

[Homelessness code of guidance for local authorities – Domestic Abuse](#) - Guidance on providing homelessness services to people who have experienced or are at risk of domestic violence or abuse.

[Improving access to social housing for victims of domestic abuse](#) - Statutory guidance for local authorities to improve access to social housing for victims of domestic abuse in refuges or other types of temporary accommodation.

[Domestic Abuse Commissioner: framework document](#) - Guidance that has been developed by the Home Office in consultation with the Domestic Abuse Commissioner.

[Domestic Abuse Commissioner Website](#) - The Domestic Abuse Commissioner is an independent voice that speaks on behalf of victims and survivors. The Commissioner will use her statutory powers, which are set out in the Domestic Abuse Bill, to raise public awareness and hold both agencies and government to account in tackling domestic abuse.



[The Domestic Abuse Support \(Local Authority Strategies and Annual Reports\) Regulations 2021](#) these Regulations set out a consistent approach to the preparation and publication of strategies in respect of accommodation-based support for victims of domestic abuse across England. The annual reporting requirement specified in [section 59](#) of the Act and in [Section 57](#) the strategy for each relevant local authority to support victims of domestic abuse in their local area.

[Domestic Abuse Bill 2020: factsheets](#) - These factsheets provide more information about each of the provisions in the act.

[Key findings from analysis of domestic homicide reviews – Research Analysis](#) the document is intended to make available key information and share learning. It summarises areas which reviews identify can be improved and also their recommendations.

