



CYPRUS POLICE  
For a safer community

# ▶ Domestic violence



**You can stop violence.**

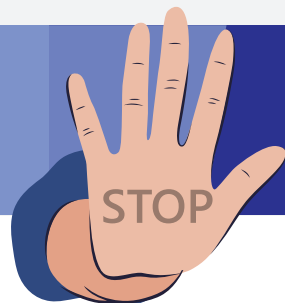
...is not a private matter.

useful information





**...is not a private matter.**



## Are you a victim of domestic violence? What you should know:

### In case of an emergency

| > ☎ 1460 ☎ 112 ή 199

- You should save on your phone/memorize/write down the number of your nearest Police Station, the Police Emergency Line (112 or 199) or the Citizens' Communication Line (1460). It is also important that people close to you (including your children), are aware of whom to contact in case of an emergency, by calling the Police.
- For your protection, it is important to contact the Police as soon as possible, after the specific incident of abuse against you. You can always contact the Police at a later stage, however, you should keep in mind that reporting the incident at a later stage (a postdated complaint) could endanger the investigation and the documentation (collection of evidence) of the abuse or even put your life in danger.

### Police investigation of the incident

#### Initial report

You must report the incident of the abuse against you to the Special Divisional Unit of Investigation of cases of Domestic Violence (located at the District Crime Combating Department) or to your nearby Police Station and its members will put you in contact with the Special Divisional Unit of Investigation of cases of Domestic Violence.

You should mention exactly what happened and the reasons of your fears to the police officer(s) (once they arrive at the scene or when you visit the Police Station). In case you have reasons to believe that you or any other person under your protection is subject to any serious danger inform the Police immediately and explain the reasons. If the person(s) who act violently towards you have in their possession any firearms (hunting gun, military gun, etc.) you should also inform the Police. Moreover, it is important that you mention any previous acts of violence committed against you.

## Medical care/examination

When required, it is important to visit a state hospital (First Aid Department) for the treatment of your injuries, as well as for a government doctor to document possible injuries and the incident. If you haven't seen a doctor or visited the hospital before the Police involvement, the Police will provide you with a special medical form and after its completion by a doctor, you will return to the Police to proceed with your case. Even if, at that given time, you do not want to testify against your spouse/cohabitant, it is still important to get medical treatment and give the above special medical form to the Police, to make it easier to document your complaint at a later stage. Depending on the situation, the police might find it necessary for you to undergo a forensic examination.

## A statement from the victim

The police officer who will handle your case, will document your oral statement in the Digital Incident Log of the Special Divisional Unit of Investigation of cases of Domestic Violence.

This is NOT equal to a written report which requires from you a written and signed statement of the incident(s).

The Police will require from you to give a written statement regarding the events, so that the criminal investigation of the complaint proceeds and the necessary actions are taken on behalf of the Police for your protection.

With your written statement, the Police will be able to press charges and bring the perpetrator before justice. Yet, you should have in mind that your written statement does not at all times ensure that the perpetrator will be convicted, as this is a matter of the court to decide. If you do not wish the perpetrator to be brought to justice (at least for the present time), you should mention this in your written statement, explaining the reasons. The aim of the Police is to determine whether there are important significant issues that should be handled accordingly, either by the Police or other competent authorities. Such issues may involve actions by the perpetrator such as threats, blackmail or intimidation, the existence of psychological illnesses, substance abuse etc.

The Law which provides for the Prevention of Violence in the Family and Protection of Victims provides that your statement should be taken by a Police officer of the same gender as you, unless you specify otherwise.

## Further Police actions

Depending on the specific circumstances of each case, the Police will collect evidence (witness statements) as well as forensic evidence and possibly photographs. The Police may, under certain conditions, arrest the suspect.

## Measures for the safety and protection of victims

In case of an incident of domestic violence, the person acting violently should leave the family home and not the victim.

If, however, for safety reasons, there is no other choice but for the victim to leave the family home temporarily, the Police can assist you to leave your family home with safety.

The Police can assist you in finding a temporary home at a shelter for victims of domestic violence or abuse, or at another safe place (in collaboration with the Social Welfare Services and/or the Association for the Prevention and Combating of Domestic Violence).

Moreover, in collaboration with the Social Welfare Services, the Police can apply for the issuance of a Temporary Protection Order (temporary exclusion of a suspect order), which will prohibit your spouse/cohabitant to enter your home, irrespective of who the owner of the house is.

In order for the Protection Order to be issued, the Court must be satisfied (with testimonies and evidence, e. g. statements and certificates etc.) for the severity of the situation and that there is a danger of a repeated violent act. You, or the person representing you, can also apply for the Temporary Protection Order.

In case where you need to take any personal property/belongings/documents from your home, you can request to be escorted by a police officer.

Police presence will be discreet and the police officers escorting you will not be involved during the collection of your personal belongings. In order to avoid any intense clashes, the Police recommend that the two parties (couple) have a prior agreement on which personal belongings each one will receive.

## Psychological violence

The documentation of the offence of any psychological abuse requires the testimony of a psychiatrist or psychologist who will affirm the mental or psychological harm caused (a diagnosis), to conclude if there is a connection between the harm caused and the incidents under investigation or not.

## Indirect violence against minors, witnesses of domestic violence

In a conflictual family environment where children become witnesses of domestic abuse, there could be severe effects on their mental or psychological health. This is why, according to the Law, when one spouse abuses the other at the presence of children, two separate offences are committed at the same time. The first one consists of the direct abuse of the spouse, and the second is the indirect victimization of the child/children witnessing the abuse.

## Informing other competent services

The police officer's duty is to forward your written statement, or oral complaint to the Police Headquarters, the Social Welfare Services and the Law Office of the Republic of Cyprus.

## Family counseling

Police officers are not the competent persons to provide any form of family counseling and/or guidance for family matters/disputes. According to the Violence in the Family (Prevention and Protection of Victims Law (N119) (I)/2000) Law, the competent persons for resolving/providing guidance/mediating in any family issues are the Family Counsellors of the Social Welfare Services.

Similar services can be also provided by other Public Officers of governmental and non-governmental organizations (e. g. Mental Health Services, Association for Domestic violence). On this leaflet you will find all relevant contact information.



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## Legal counselling

In a number of cases, domestic violence incidents among spouses or cohabitants are interconnected/coexist with civil matters pending at the Family Courts (divorce proceedings, child custody, property disputes, injunctions).

In case you need advice or guidance on matters related to a Family Court case, the competent services are Law Offices/Advocates/Legal Consultants and especially the ones who specialize on Family Law.

Police officers are responsible to give advice on such issues, only in case a special criminal misconduct occurs, such as disobedience to an injunction (Court Order) of a Family Court related to the aforementioned family matters.

## Further information

For any further information and guidance about issues related to domestic violence and/or child abuse, you can visit/call the Special Divisional Units for the Investigation of cases of Domestic Violence, the nearest Police Station or the Unit for Handling Issues of Domestic Violence – Crime Combating Department – Police Headquarters, tel. 22808442.

## Useful telephone numbers

### Police



- 199 ή 112 Police Emergency Line
- Nearest Police Station
- 1460 Citizens' Communication Line
- 22808442 Crime Combating Department - Safeguarding Sub-directorate (between 07:00-14:30)

### Other Services

- District Office of Social Welfare Services
- 1440 (with no charge) Association for the Prevention and Treatment of Domestic Violence (for direct help/support and temporary stay of victims in special shelters)

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## Divisional Crime Investigation Departments

Nicosia: 22 802222  
Limassol: 25 805057  
Famagusta: 23 803040  
Larnaca: 24 804060  
Paphos: 26 806021  
Morphou: 22 802519



## Special Divisional Units of Domestic Violence

Nicosia: 22 607190  
Limassol: 25 805397  
Famagusta: 23 803080  
Larnaca: 24 804395  
Paphos: 26 806023  
Duty Officer  
of Morphou : 22 802504

## Crime Combating Department - Safeguarding Sub-directorate

Police Headquarters

22 808442 22 808277 [domviol.childabuse@police.gov.cy](mailto:domviol.childabuse@police.gov.cy)



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