

Domestic Abuse (Protection) Act 2021

Summary

This Act gives people in Scotland stronger protection from Domestic Abuse. It introduces new measures called Domestic Abuse Protection Notices (DAPNs) and Domestic Abuse Protection Orders (DAPOs). These can be used quickly when someone is at risk, without having to wait for a long court process.

A Protection Notice can be issued by the police if they believe a person has been abusive and there is an immediate risk of further harm. The notice can require that person to leave the home they share with the victim-survivor and avoid contact. A Protection Order is granted by a type of judge and can include similar or stronger conditions. Breaking a Notice or an Order is a criminal offence and can lead to a prison sentence.

This law recognises Domestic Abuse as not only physical violence, but also controlling, threatening, or emotionally harmful behaviour.

How does this relate to Older Victim-Survivors?

This law recognises that abuse can take several forms, including control over money, isolation from family and friends, threats, and emotional harm. This is significant for older victim-survivors who may be affected by this larger variety of abuse.

It also supports housing stability, helping older people stay safely in their homes without being forced to move due to the abusive behaviour.