

Domestic Abuse and Civil Proceedings Act 2021 Summary

The Domestic Abuse and Civil Proceedings Act of 2021 creates a new domestic abuse offence which criminalises a course of abuse behaviour. The offence is not just limited to physical and sexual violence or threatening behaviour. It also includes the following:

- Controlling or coercive behaviour
- Psychological abuse
- Emotional abuse
- Financial and economic abuse

The Act has criminalised abusive behaviour against an intimate partner, former partner or a close family member.

The Act also changes how courts deal with Domestic Abuse. For example, someone accused or convicted of Domestic Abuse can no longer personally question the victim-survivor in court. Furthermore, victims-survivors receive additional support for legal costs.

How does this relate to Older Victim-Survivors?

The Act broadens the scope of the different types of abuse within the legal framework and this relates to older victims-survivors as not all of the abuse they face is physical but can also be psychological, controlling, emotional or economic which can often be overlooked.