



DO THEY KNOW IT'S CHRISTMAS TIME AT ALL?

Christmas is supposed to be the season for peace and goodwill to all men and women. Unfortunately that is not true for an increasing number of people in the UK.

Sadly, incidents of Domestic Violence are rising. In the UK, an incident of Domestic Violence is reported to the Police every minute and on average, 2 women a week are killed by a current or former Partner. Nearly 1 Million women experience at least one incident of Domestic Violence each year. 1 in 4 women experience Domestic Violence over their lifetime.

It is important to remember that Domestic Violence is suffered by men as well as women. Ask Tyrone Dobbs, in Coronation Street!

In a recent survey of reported incidents of Domestic Violence, 81% of Victims were women and 19% were men.

Domestic Violence is serious and sometimes deadly. It ruins lives, breaks up Families and has a lasting impact on everyone involved.

Domestic Violence affects Individuals in every community, regardless of age, economic status, race, religion, nationality or educational background.

Domestic Violence is a Criminal Offence. In 2009/10 there were 74,000 prosecutions. Unfortunately, some Victims find the procedure daunting and do not want to report the incident to the Police as they think that the Police will not be interested.

The Police are actively trying to overcome this perception and new initiatives are launched on a regular basis. Each Police Area will have its own Domestic Violence Support Worker who is independent from the Police and Courts. As the Support Worker will deal exclusively with incidents of Domestic Violence they will have a good understanding of what Domestic Violence is and what it means to the victim and the perpetrator.

Instead, or if a victim does not wish to involve the Police but needs to find protection they can look to the Family Court for a solution.

The Family Law Act 1996 provides a remedy. This is an Injunction, called a Non-Molestation Order. An Application, supported by a written Statement, is made to the County Court and is heard by an experienced District Judge. In this area, around Coventry, we have excellent District Judges who are experienced, sympathetic and well aware of the growing problem of Domestic Violence.

The procedure is relatively quick. An Interim Injunction can usually be obtained within a few hours of making the Application. In all Cases the District Judge will hear the initial Application in private in his Chambers and will be sympathetic and may not even require the Applicant to speak or give any additional evidence. The District Judge will ask the Solicitor to present the Application and any questions are directed at the Solicitor and not the Applicant.

An Interim Injunction will give immediate protection against further Domestic Violence. That Interim Injunction can be ordered to be a Final Injunction, with protection lasting for 6 months and in some cases 12 months. If the Perpetrator breaches that Order, they can be arrested and may be sent to prison.

At David Lee Solicitors we have two specialists in the law relating to domestic violence. Dave Lee or Emma Poole can advise you, in confidence on your individual case. Dave or Emma will explain the procedure and answer your questions in a professional and totally confidential way. Emma has worked with organisations such as Relate and The Haven who assist vulnerable women.

Dave or Emma will prepare the Application and present it to the Court on your behalf. Dave or Emma will be with you at every step.

At David Lee Solicitors we pride ourselves on our ability to move quickly to provide you with a practical solution which is best for you and your family.

For a free, no obligation meeting with either Dave or Emma please contact us by telephone on 01926 852188 or by email on david@davidleesolicitors.co.uk or emma@davidleesolicitors.co.uk