

Further support and information:

If you are deaf and are calling a hearing person from a textphone: Dial 18001 followed by the full telephone number from your textphone. If the call is answered by a hearing person, an operator is brought into the call.

Police Call 101 or in an emergency call 999

Women's Aid Provides support to victims of domestic abuse through programmes and dedicated workers. Support is also on offer for male victims.

Aylesbury Women's Aid 01296 437777
www.aylesburywomensaid.org.uk/contact-us

Wycombe Women's Aid 01494 461367
www.wycombewomensaid.org.uk/contact-us

24 Hour National Domestic Violence Helpline is a national service for women experiencing domestic violence, their family, friends, colleagues and others calling on their behalf. Textphone is available for those with hearing impairments. 0808 2000 247
www.nationaldomesticviolencehelpline.org.uk

Men's Advice Line Advice and support for men experiencing domestic violence and abuse.
0808 8010327

Social Care at Buckinghamshire County Council
First Response Team (Children's Social Care)
0845 460 001

Adult Safeguarding team (Adult's Social Care)
0800 137915

Scope Disabled People's Organisations (DPOs) operate across England and Wales. Our helpline refers callers to DPOs who provide information and advice.
0808 800 3333
www.scope.org.uk/support/disabled-people/local/about

Disability Rights UK For information on social security benefits, tax credits and community care.
www.disabilityrightsuk.org

RNIB helpline Information and support for people with visual impairment and sight problems.
Phone: 0303 123 9999
www.rnib.org.uk

Action on Hearing Loss Provides support for people with hearing loss and tinnitus.
Telephone 0808 808 0123
Textphone 0808 808 9000
SMS 0780 0000 360
informationline@hearingloss.org.uk
www.actiononhearingloss.org.uk

Respond For people with learning difficulties who have experienced abuse.
0808 808 0700
helpline@respond.org.uk
www.respond.org.uk

Broken Rainbow Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender Helpline for domestic abuse.
0300 999 5428
www.brokenrainbow.org.uk

Victim Support Helps anyone affected by crime and also their friends, family and any other people involved.
0808 168 9274

Thames Valley Independent Sexual Violence Advisory Service Supports victims who have experienced, or at risk of experiencing, sexual assault or rape.
0800 221 8186
isvathamesvalley@refuge.org.uk

Rape Crisis Women supporting female survivors of rape, sexual assault & childhood sexual abuse.
Wycombe, Chiltern & South Bucks: 01494 462222
Aylesbury: 01296 392468

If you require this document in an alternative format please contact

Community Safety Team
Buckinghamshire County Council,
Walton Street, Aylesbury, Bucks HP20 1UA
communitysafety@bucksc.gov.uk
01296 395000

If you can't hear or speak on the phone we can help you: 18001 0845 3708090
Next Generation Text Service (NGT)

Domestic Abuse and Physical Disability



There is no excuse for domestic abuse towards any person and in any relationship at any time.



Research commissioned by Women's Aid in October 2007 reveals that people with disabilities are more vulnerable to domestic abuse and will often face additional difficulties in attempting to access support.

Domestic abuse against disabled women and men:

Disabled victims may experience some or all of the same types of abuse as non-disabled victims: physical violence, emotional abuse, financial control or sexual abuse. However, disabled victims may also experience other forms of control. For example:

- Their partner/carer may withhold vital care, medication or food
- Their partner/carer may remove or damage equipment such as sensory or mobility aids in order to limit their independence
- If the victim has a visual impairment or mobility problems, their partner/carer may create obstacles around the home so that she/he is afraid to move around independently
- Their partner/carer may claim disability benefits on her/his behalf and limit her/his access to funds
- Their partner/carer may use the victim's disability to criticise or humiliate them. Or they may threaten to tell social services that she/he is not fit to live alone.

Many disabled people also face additional barriers to safety and support. For example:

- Some disabled people may be more physically vulnerable than those who are able-bodied and may be less likely to escape or protect themselves from violent attacks
- Some disabled people may be more socially isolated as a result of their physical dependence on their partner/carer
- Particularly where the partner is their carer, a disabled person may have fewer chances to attend medical or other appointments alone, and therefore will have fewer opportunities to talk to someone about the abuse
- Some disabled people may feel particularly nervous about leaving their partner if they have had special adaptations to their home
- Some victims may also worry about who will care for them if they move away, or about a change to their care package in a new area that could leave them with less support.

Both men and women with a limiting illness or disabilities are more likely to experience intimate partner violence.

Safety Planning:

- Ask a trusted relative, friend or neighbour for help – for example, they could gather information for you or talk to the police or other agencies
- Have a secret code to signal for help with a friend/neighbour so they are aware of when you need assistance
- Have a small bag ready with essentials (medication, marriage/birth certificates, bank information, passport, money etc) you may need should you have to flee the property in an emergency. Alternatively, leave this bag with a neighbour or friend
- Have some money stored should you need to use public transport to leave the property
- Keep with you any important and emergency telephone numbers
- Remember, if you leave the property and forget something essential, the police can always collect your belongings for you
- Take special care if you are considering leaving the home. Risk for a victim is highest when leaving their partner or shortly after, so make sure arrangements are in place
- If you have a dependent child/ren you should phone the First Response Team so your child/ren can be safeguarded. If your child/ren is over the age of 18 and they are considered vulnerable then a referral can be made to the Adult Safeguarding team.

They must be a saint, caring for you when you're disabled?