



# Reporting a Sexual Offence Your Rights

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**VictimFocus**  
LEARNING ACADEMY

## Who Is This Resource For?

This resource is for women and girls who have been subjected to sexual violence and are either considering reporting it to the police or have already reported.

## The Purpose of This Resource

- To ensure that women and girls are equipped with the knowledge of:
  - How they should be treated by criminal justice services
  - What their rights are in the criminal justice system
  - Where to go if their rights are not being met
- To improve access to support for women and girls who have reported sexual violence to the police by increasing awareness of:
  - What support is available
  - What type of support each service should be providing

Due to the nature of the topics in this course there may be content that is distressing. If you need emotional or wellbeing support, please speak to someone you trust and/or a professional.

If you have any general questions about this resource, please contact us:

Email: [chloe@victimfocus.org.uk](mailto:chloe@victimfocus.org.uk)

Web: [www.victimfocus.org.uk/contact](http://www.victimfocus.org.uk/contact)

## Foreward

There are multiple ways of reporting a sexual offence to the police:

- Via phoning the non-emergency police number (101) or 999 if it is an emergency
- Online via local police force's website
- In person at any police station
- Via a Sexual Assault Referral Centre (SARC)
- Via another service, for example, a healthcare or education provider; services can offer support with reporting if this is what you want (this might mean requesting the police visit the service)

Hopefully this resource will be of some help to women who have been subjected to rape or sexual assault and decide to report it. Please remember that we all have different ways of reacting to and coping with trauma in the moment it happens. We also have a different way of responding immediately and in the days, weeks, months, and years afterwards. Sadly, there is a lot of pressure to be a 'model victim' who fights off the perpetrator and runs straight to a police station to report the crime. Most of us will never do this. Most of us who have been subjected to sexual violence do not report it. We will all have different reasons for this, and that's ok. It is most important to recognise that:

We are **entitled** to report what we've been subjected to

We are **not obligated** to report what we've been subjected to

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# GLOSSARY

**Acquittal**

A judgement by a court that a person is not guilty of an offence for which they've been charged

**Claimant**

A person making a claim, especially in a lawsuit

**Complainant**

The person who makes the complaint in a legal action or proceeding

**Defendant**

An individual, company or institution sued or accused in a court of law

**ISVA**

Independent Sexual Violence Advisor

**Plaintiff**

A person who brings a case against another in a court of law

**Respondent**

A party against whom a petition is filed

**SARC**

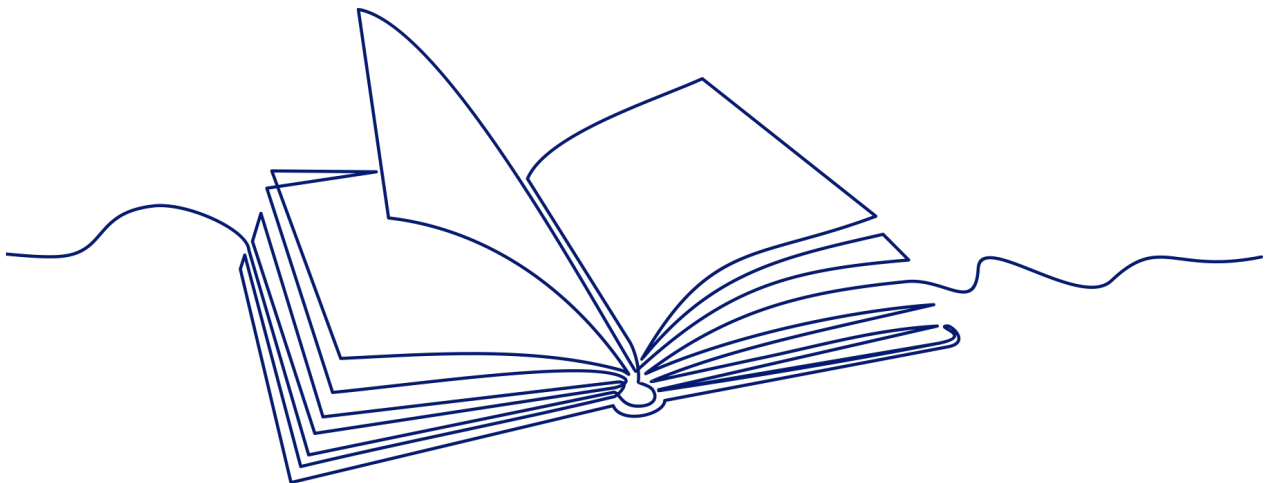
Sexual Assault Referral Centre

**Statutory**

Required, permitted, or enacted by statute

**Victim**

A person harmed, injured, or killed as a result of a crime, accident, or other event or action



# Section 1: The Victims Code

This section contains the following details about the Victims Code:

- What it is
- Who it is for and who is responsible for adhering to it
- What it says
- An example of each of the 12 rights in the code

## What Is It?

The Victim's Code is a statutory government document that sets out what services a victim has the right to, and the minimum standard that services/organisations in England and Wales must provide to victims of crime.

## Who Is It For?

The statutory definition of a 'victim' within the Victims' Code is:

A person who has suffered harm, including physical, mental, or emotional harm or economic loss which was directly caused by a criminal offence and/or a close relative (or a nominated family spokesperson) of a person whose death was directly caused by a criminal offence

A person can also receive Rights under this Code if they are:

- A parent or guardian of the victim if the victim is under 18 years of age or
- A nominated family spokesperson if the victim has a mental impairment or has been so badly injured because of a criminal offence that they are unable to communicate or lacks the capacity to do so

## Who is responsible for meeting the rights?

The Code requires the following organisations to meet the rights set out (this list is not exhaustive as there are circumstances where other service providers are involved in an investigation and must therefore meet the rights set out in the code):

- |  |  |
|--|--|
| • Police and Crime Commissioners             | • The National Probation Service               |
| • All police forces in England and Wales     | • National Offender Management Service         |
| • The British Transport Police               | • The Criminal Cases Review Commission         |
| • The Ministry of Defence Police             | • The Criminal Injuries Compensation Authority |
| • Police Witness Care Units                  | • The UK Supreme Court                         |
| • The Crown Prosecution Service              | • Youth Offending Teams                        |
| • Her Majesty's Courts and Tribunals Service | • The Home Office                              |
| • Her Majesty's Prison Service               | • The National Crime Agency                    |
| • The Parole Board                           |  |

## What Does It Say?

The Victim's Code details the rights of a victim, which should be upheld by services in the criminal justice system, there are twelve rights, as follows:

1. To be able to understand and to be understood
2. To have the details of the crime recorded without unjustified delay
3. To be provided with information when reporting the crime
4. To be referred to services that support victims
5. To be provided with information about compensation
6. To be provided with information about the investigation and prosecution
7. To make a Victim Personal Statement
8. To be given information about the trial, trial process and your role as a witness
9. To be given information about the outcome of the case and any appeals
10. To be paid expenses and have property returned
11. To be given information about the offender following a conviction
12. To make a complaint about your Rights not being met

### 1. To be able to understand and to be understood

You have the Right to be given information in a way that is easy to understand and to be provided with help to be understood, including, where necessary, access to interpretation and translation services.

**Example:** service providers should communicate in simple and accessible language e.g., without using legal jargon and you can request the translation of any document that is given to you.

### 2. To have the details of the crime recorded without unjustified delay

You have the Right to have details of the crime recorded by the police as soon as possible after the incident. If you are required to provide a witness statement or be interviewed, you have the Right to be provided with additional support to assist you through this process.

**Example:** the number of times you are interviewed should be kept to a minimum and video recordings should be used for this purpose where possible.

### 3. To be provided with information when reporting the crime

You have the Right to receive written confirmation when reporting a crime, to be provided with information about the criminal justice process and to be told about programmes or services for victims. This might include services where you can meet with the suspect or offender, which is known as Restorative Justice.

**Example:** you should be informed where and how you can access medical or psychological support and you should be informed what crime has been recorded.

#### **4. To be referred to services that support victims**

You have the Right to be referred to services that support victims, which includes the Right to contact them directly, and to have your needs assessed so services and support can be tailored to meet your needs. If eligible, you have the Right to be offered a referral to specialist support services and to be told about additional support available at court, for example special measures.

**Example:** you should be offered a referral to a SARC, Rape Crisis or an equivalent service and you should be offered an assessment for your support needs, which could include special measures in court.

#### **5. To be provided with information about compensation**

Where eligible, you have the Right to be told about how to claim compensation for any loss, damage or injury caused as a result of crime.

**Example:** you should be told how to apply for compensation through the Criminal Injuries Compensation Scheme and you should be told how to seek compensation from the court if the defendant is found guilty.

#### **6. To be provided with information about the investigation and prosecution**

You have the Right to be provided with updates on your case and to be told when important decisions are taken. You also have the Right, at certain stages of the justice process, to ask for decisions to be looked at again by the relevant service provider.

**Example:** you should be told if/when the suspect is arrested or released on bail within 5 working days and you should be told how and when the police will contact you to provide updates on your case.

#### **7. To make a Victim Personal Statement**

You have the Right to make a Victim Personal Statement, which tells the court how the crime has affected you and is considered when sentencing the offender. You will be given information about the process.

**Example:** you are entitled to make a statement about how the offence has impacted your physical and emotional wellbeing and how it has changed your life.

#### **8. To be given information about the trial, trial process and your role as a witness**

If your case goes to court, you have the Right to be told the time, date and location of any hearing and the outcome of those hearings in a timely way. If you are required to give evidence, you have the Right to be offered appropriate help before the trial and, where possible, if the court allows, to meet with the prosecutor before giving evidence.

**Example:** you should be told within 5 working days the outcome of a bail hearing and you should be offered a referral to the Witness Service if you have to attend court to give evidence.

#### **9. To be given information about the outcome of the case and any appeals**

You have the Right to be told the outcome of the case and, if the defendant is convicted, to be given an explanation of the sentence. If the offender appeals against their conviction or sentence, you have the Right to be told about the appeal and its outcome.

**Example:** you should be given a summary of reasons for the decisions made in your case and you should be told about a verdict within 1 working day.

## 10. To be paid expenses and have property returned

If you are required to attend court and give evidence, you have the Right to claim certain expenses. If any of your property was taken as evidence, you have the Right to get it back as soon as possible.

**Example:** you can claim expenses for child care and any property the police have taken for evidence should be returned to you as soon as it is no longer required.

## 11. To be given information about the offender following a conviction

Where eligible, you have the Right to be automatically referred to the Victim Contact Scheme, which will provide you with information about the offender and their progress in prison, and if/when they become eligible for consideration of parole or release. Where applicable, you also have the Right to make a new Victim Personal Statement, in which you can say how the crime continues to affect you.

**Example:** (if you are part of the Victim Contact Scheme you should be informed of the offender's release and you should be offered the opportunity to make a statement for the parole board regarding decisions made on the offender's sentence.

## 12. To make a complaint about your Rights not being met

If you believe that you have not received your Rights, you have the Right to make a complaint to the relevant service provider. If you remain unhappy, you can contact the Parliamentary and Health Service Ombudsman.

**Example:** the service provider should provide you with their complaints procedure if you express your dissatisfaction and an independent investigation should be undertaken by the Parliamentary and Health Service Ombudsman where appropriate.



## Section 2: Sexual Assault Referral Centres (SARCs)

This section contains the following details about Sexual Assault Referral Centres:

- What a SARC is and what they offer
- When you should attend a SARC and how to seek support from a SARC
- What you should do prior to attending
- What happens at a SARC
- Including information about forensic medical examinations

### What Is a SARC?

SARCs are specialist facilities with specially trained doctors, nurses, and support workers. At a SARC you can receive immediate help and support if you have been recently subjected to rape or sexual assault. SARCs offer a range of support including medical, practical, and emotional support.

### When should I attend a SARC?

The statutory definition of a 'victim' within the Victims' Code is:

The below table demonstrates what your options are if you wish to seek support from a SARC and/or report a sexual offence you have been subjected to:

Did The Rape/Assault Take Place Within The Last 10 Days?		
Yes		No
Attend a SARC in person for immediate help	Call the SARC helpline to meet crisis worker	Contact or attend a SARC to see if they can offer support such as help reporting to the police, forensic assessment, counselling, ISVA service

If you are considering reporting the offence and want to have forensic evidence taken, you should attend a SARC soon as you feel able to after the assault – forensic evidence becomes less reliable over time and cannot be used after 10 days (this is the absolute maximum time and some SARCs are unable to take forensic evidence after as little as 72 hours).

If you decide to report a rape or sexual assault to the police:

- If the offence took place **in the last 10 days**, the police should offer a referral to a SARC
- If the offence took place **more than 10 days ago** the police may still offer a referral to a local service or SARC for support such as counselling or support from an ISVA

**If you do not want to report the offence to the police, you can still attend a SARC:**

- If the offence took place in the last 10 days, the SARC can go through the standard procedure with you, and they will retain this evidence; you will be offered support to report the offence to the police, but if you decide not to, the evidence will be kept securely for several years, so if you change your mind in the future it is available
- If the offence took place more than 10 days ago, a SARC would not be able to obtain forensic evidence, however it may be worth checking whether you can attend your local SARC to access support such as counselling or support from an ISVA

## **What Should I Do?**

**If you think you may want to give forensic evidence, if possible, try to avoid the following before attending a SARC:**

- Eating or drinking
- Smoking
- Washing
- Brushing your teeth
- Going to the toilet
- Changing your clothes
- Cleaning or tidying the place it happened

**For forensic evidence to be more reliable, if possible:**

- Try and keep other people and pets away from where it happened
- Try to keep things like a used tampon or tissue and put them in a clean plastic bag
- If you do need to go to the toilet, try to collect any urine in a clean container
- If you do decide to brush your teeth, try to put the toothbrush in a clean plastic bag and keep the water you use in a clean container
- If you do decide to change your clothes, try to stand on something like a newspaper or towel, to catch anything that could fall from your clothes, for example a strand of the perpetrator's hair, and then keep your clothes unwashed in a paper bag

We recognise a lot of the above is not likely to be done after you've been subjected to a sexual offence. You do not need to worry if you have or haven't done any of these things, or that it's too late; it doesn't necessarily mean that forensic evidence cannot be collected.

## **SARC Procedure**

**When you attend a SARC:**

- You can bring a friend or family member for support
- A crisis worker will provide information about your options and what happens next
- You will be offered the option of a forensic examination
- A friend, family member or crisis worker can support you during the examination
- The forensic evidence taken will be kept securely for several years
- You will be offered support to report (SARCs have police interview suites in-house)
- Crisis workers can support you during the police interview but cannot say anything
- An Independent Sexual Violence Advisor (ISVA) will be allocated to you within 5 days to support with your ongoing needs and support through the CJS if you want this

## Forensic Medical Examination

The forensic examination is not the same as a standard doctor's examination. The forensic medical examination is conducted to collect evidence that supports your report of sexual assault, which may help with a police investigation, or securing a prosecution.

A forensic medical examination is completely optional. You can take the forensic medical examination at your own pace, and it can be stopped at any time.

**A Sexual Offences Examiner (SOE) conducts the forensic medical examination (this is normally a healthcare professional such as a nurse, healthcare assistant or doctor):**

- They will examine you from head to toe (including your genitals if necessary) and document any injuries you have (such as cuts and bruises)
- They will collect evidence by taking swabs (from areas such as the vagina, anus, mouth, or any other area of the body which was involved in the sexual assault/rape) and samples such as urine or blood samples, and occasionally hair samples
- You can ask to do your own swabs, or you can choose to have only some samples or swabs taken, for example you may be comfortable providing a urine sample, but not comfortable having a swab taken from your anus)
- They can give you advice and answer any questions you may have relating to risk of pregnancy and sexually transmitted infections
- They can provide you with a pregnancy test and emergency contraception



## Section 3: The Court Process

This section contains information about:

- The court support available from the following services:
  - The Witness Service
  - Her Majesty's Courts and Tribunals Service
  - The Victim Liaison Unit
  - The Witness Care Unit
- Special measures in criminal courts
- Victim Personal Statements

### 3.1 Support From Services

#### The Witness Service

If your case goes to court the police will pass your details to the Witness Service. The service is run by the Citizen's Advice; they are based at the court and will help you with information and support, both pre-trial and throughout the trial. The witness service will liaise with the Witness Care Unit to arrange a pre-trial visit, separate entrance, and support on the day for you (this is available in both a Magistrates and Crown Court trial if you are required to give evidence). You do not have to use the witness service, it is optional.

**Note:** The pre-trial visit should involve a member of staff from the witness service, who can give you information about the court process and special measures; including the opportunity to practice using the live link facility (see 3.2 Special Measures).

#### Her Majesty's Courts and Tribunals Service

Her Majesty's Courts and Tribunals Service can provide you, your family and other witnesses with separate entrances, waiting areas and court seats, away from the defendant and their family/friends. In addition, they will ensure that if you have special measures, that they are maintained whilst in court and that your wait prior to giving evidence is no longer than two hours.

#### Victim Liaison Unit

Crown Prosecution Service Victim Liaison Units (VLUs) are responsible for informing you of decisions such as stopping a case or significantly changing charges. They are a dedicated point of contact for you if you want further information about CPS decisions. The VLU can also advise you on how you can seek a review, make a complaint, or provide feedback.

#### Witness Care Unit

If your case has started the police will pass the file on to their local Witness Care Unit (WCU). Witness care units exist across England and Wales and are predominately staffed with police staff who can provide information and support to victims and witnesses throughout the criminal justice process. WCUs provide the following support:

- They can make a request for a restraining in the event that the defendant is acquitted (See section titled 'Civil Alternatives' for further information)
- A needs assessments for you, which they can share with criminal justice agencies
- Arrangement of/application for special measures after the needs assessment
- Oversight of certain documents e.g., your Victim Personal Statement
- Liaison with other services that can support you e.g., a third sector organisation such as Women's Aid or the Witness Service (to arrange a pre-trial visit to the court)

In addition, the WCU are the central point of contact from the time the offender is charged to the end of your court case. They should provide information on the progress of your case. This includes (but is not limited to) trial dates and outcomes of hearings.

**Note:** The existence/involvement of a witness care unit does not eliminate the responsibility of the police and prosecutors to keep victims up to date as per the Victims Code

## 3.2 Special Measures

Vulnerable and intimidated witnesses are eligible for special measures. Your officer at the witness care unit will provide a needs assessment to decide what extra support may be required for you and what special measures are necessary. Your witness care officer will then make prosecutors aware of the special measures required. The application for special measures is made to the court by the prosecutor (or the defence), and then the court will decide whether the measures or other support can be granted.

**Special measures may be available to:**

- all child witnesses
- any witness whose quality of evidence is likely to be diminished because they:
  - are suffering from a mental disorder
  - have a significant impairment of intelligence and social functioning
  - have a physical disability or are suffering from a physical disorder

**Special measures options are as follows:**

- Pre-recording your cross examination before the full trial, away from the court room (not available in all courts in across England and Wales at present [October 2022])
- Screening you from the defendant (a screen around the witness box)
  - The defendant cannot see you and vice versa
  - The screen will be ready for you before you come into court
- Providing your evidence via video link from either another room inside the court or from a location away from the court
  - The court usher will assist you to the room for you to give evidence, or
  - The court clerk will digitally 'invite' you into the courtroom at the appropriate time
  - You can see the courtroom and the courtroom can see you in both circumstances
  - Someone from the court will be there to help you in both circumstances
- Giving your evidence in private, e.g., a closed court with no public gallery permitted

- Removal of wigs and gowns by legal professionals to make the court feel less formal
- Having your evidence pre-recorded and played in the court
  - If your evidence was pre-recorded, it will be played to the court first, so you don't have to go through the whole incident again when examined
- Examination through intermediary (the use of a person to help you understand questions). If you need an intermediary, it will be arranged for one to be there
- Aids to communication e.g., language translator. If you need an interpreter, it will be arranged for one to be there

**Notes:**

- If you need to take a break at any time, you can ask the judge
- If you don't understand a question, you can ask the barrister to rephrase/explain it
- If you don't know the answer to a question/can't remember, it's okay for you to say
- If the Judge decides a question is inappropriate, they won't allow it to be asked
- If the prosecution thinks a question is inappropriate, they can object and ask the judge to stop it being asked

### 3.3 Victim Personal Statement

In addition to a witness statement (main evidence), if you want to, you can give a Victim Personal Statement (VPS), to describe how you've been affected. Your statement could include the following:

- How the crime has affected you physically, emotionally, or financially
- Whether you feel vulnerable or intimidated
- If you are worried about the defendant being given in the community
- Whether you are considering claiming compensation
- Anything you think may be helpful or relevant

Your VPS can be made at the same time as your witness statement and can be added to at any point before the court hearing. It will become part of the papers the court sees. This will include the police, the CPS, the defence, the Magistrates and Judges at the courts. Once you have signed the VPS, you cannot change it, but if the impact of the crime and how you are affected changes over time, then you can add or amend your VPS. If you are a vulnerable adult, your parent or carer can make the VPS for you. you can ask to have your VPS read out in court or have someone read it for you if the defendant is found guilty. The court will consider your VPS before sentencing the offender.



## Section 4: Appeals, Complaints and Compensation

This section contains information about:

- The Right to Review CPS Decisions
- The Right to Review Police Decisions
- Complaints concerning
  - The Police
  - The CPS
- Judicial Review
- Appealing A Sentence

### 4.1 Right to Review CPS Decisions

As sexual offence cases are of a nature whereby decisions are mostly made by specialists (prosecutors who specialise in RASSO [Rape and Serious Sexual Offences]), the review of your sexual offence case should be conducted by a relevant specialist too.

The Victims' Right to Review (VRR) scheme enables you and provides a specifically designed process for you to seek a review of certain CPS decisions not to start a prosecution, or to stop a prosecution. There are cases where the CPS will overturn a decision, such as:

- Cases where a further review of the original decision shows that it was wrong and to maintain confidence in the criminal justice system, a prosecution should be brought
- Cases which are stopped to obtain further anticipated evidence. In these cases, the prosecutor will tell the defendant that the prosecution may well start again
- Cases which are not prosecuted or are stopped because of a lack of evidence but where more significant evidence is discovered later

Following a review under the scheme there are two possible review outcomes:

- A New Decision: when the earlier decision is overturned
- Uphold Previous Decision: the original decision not to prosecute is upheld, and the victim notified and provided with an explanation.

Some qualifying decisions cannot be instituted or reinstituted, such as:

- 'Offer no evidence' decisions – the CPS 'offer no evidence' between the defendant being charged up until the evidence has begun being heard
- Cases which become statute barred

This is because such decisions are final, exceptional circumstances are rare.

## Requesting a Review

You will be notified of the prosecution's decision not to bring proceedings or to bring proceedings to an end. Where an investigator is responsible for notifying you of a decision, the investigator will advise you of your right to review on behalf of the CPS. This notification will include:

- The nature of the decision - i.e., not to charge or to discontinue proceedings
- Whether the decision was made on evidential, public interest or other grounds
- If the decision is a 'qualifying decision'
  - i.e., the notification will confirm that you are eligible to seek a review under the VRR scheme and will provide sufficient information to enable you to decide whether you wish for a review, and if so, what steps you need to take

Your request for a review should ordinarily be made within 10 working days of the date of the decision letter; a delay may impact negatively on the outcome of the decision-making process. If your request is made more than three months after the qualifying decision was communicated, it is unlikely to be accepted unless there are exceptional circumstances.

You will be provided with contact details of the relevant CPS office to make contact. The only action you need take is to notify the CPS of your request for review within the agreed time frame. There is no requirement for you to seek legal advice/representation or to provide your reasons for requesting a review, but any representations which are made will be considered (they should be submitted within 14 days of your request for review).

If you are wishing to request a review of a decision, but you are unsure of how to do so, you should contact your local CPS office for further information.

**Note:** Suspects are not routinely informed that you have made a request for review. This is to preserve confidentiality for you as the suspect will have been released from any bail conditions or obligations.

## Decisions

The CPS should, complete the review and communicate the decision to you within an overall review timeframe of 30 working days. However, in more complex cases, it can take significantly longer. The CPS should notify you accordingly. Regular updates should be provided on the progress of the review (no more frequent than every 20 working days).

If your case is due to become statute-barred before the VRR period expires, the CPS should aim to expedite the process and provide a decision within the statutory time. The date when your case will become statute barred will be identified and communicated to you when the qualifying decision is communicated so that the deadline is clear. If your case is referred for review on a date close to the expiry of the statutory time limit, it is possible that a review may not be completed within the time limit for bringing a prosecution.

- Summary offences are usually statute barred 6 months from the date of the offence
- Either way and indictment only offences do not have a statutory time limit

## Eligibility

A victim for the purposes of the VRR scheme is defined as follows

**‘A person who has made an allegation that they have suffered harm, including physical, mental or emotional harm or economic loss which was directly caused by criminal conduct’**

The right to request a review under the scheme arises where the CPS:

- Decides not to bring proceedings (i.e., no charges)
- Discontinues or withdraws all charges
- Offers no evidence in all proceedings (such decision can rarely be reversed, only reviewed)
- Asks the court to leave all charges in the proceedings to ‘lie on the file’

**Note:** The above are known as ‘qualifying decisions’, decisions with effects of being final

Decisions that are not eligible for the scheme include:

- Where the qualifying decision was made prior to 5 June 2013
- Where the CPS has not made a final decision at the pre-charge stage
- Where the police or other investigator exercises their independent discretion not to investigate or not to investigate a case further (whether in consultation with the CPS or not) or the CPS have not been requested/have been unable to make a final decision to charge (requests for review of such decisions should instead be addressed to the relevant police force/other investigator)
- Where charges are brought in respect of some (but not all) allegations made
- Where charges are brought against some (but not all) possible suspects
- Where a single charge/charges are terminated but other charge/charges continue
- Where proceedings against one (or more) defendants are terminated but proceedings against other defendants continue
- Where a single charge or charges are substantially altered but proceedings continue
- Where some (but not all) charges are left to lie on the file
- Where the case is concluded by way of an out of court disposal
- Where you requested that proceedings be stopped or withdraw support for the prosecution and the decision is taken not to charge/to terminate proceedings
- Where you do not attend court to give evidence when required and without providing reasonable notice, and the prosecution can no longer proceed (this can be inferred as withdrawing support for the prosecution)
- Where a case has ended, and the prosecution may have a right of appeal
- Where a decision is made not to oppose an application to dismiss charges
- Where the Director of Public Prosecutions personal decision is required by law

If your case is not charged/stopped due to outstanding inquiries or information that has been requested but not received, it can be subject to review under the VRR scheme but is limited to the local resolution stage (see next subsection). If the information is then received during the local resolution state, your case may be reinstituted, in accordance with the 'Reconsidering a Prosecution Decision' policy (if the Full Code test is then met). However, if the material becomes available during this review and the Area still upholds the original decision, your case will be eligible for independent review (see next subsection).

**Note:** Separate arrangements are in place for decisions made before 5 June 2013 in relation to allegations of child sexual abuse. In such cases, the Child Sexual Abuse Review Panel looks again at cases. If the decision in relation to allegations of child sexual abuse was taken on or after 5 June 2013, a review can be requested under the VRR scheme.

Further information is available at: <https://www.cps.gov.uk/child-sexual-abuse-review-panel>

## Standard Review Process

The VRR scheme has 2 review stages (not every case will be taken through both), they are:

### 1. Stage One: The Local Resolution

Where the original decision has been made by an area CPS prosecutor, reviews are conducted by a new prosecutor at the CPS Unit or CPSD (CPS Direct, which provides 24/7 charging decisions on priority cases) where the original decision was made. A new prosecutor, who was not previously involved in the original decision is assigned to conduct the local resolution review.

- If the review outcome at this stage is that proceedings should be instituted or reinstituted, appropriate procedures will be followed, and you will be updated
- If the outcome is to uphold the original decision, you will be provided with additional information or a further explanation and advised that if you remain dissatisfied with the decision, you can move onto stage two, should you want to
- Contact details will be provided with guidance as to how to proceed

### Stage Two: Independent Review

Where the original decision was made by the Chief Crown Prosecutor the local resolution stage would be skipped, and an independent review would be conducted straight away. This review is conducted by the ARU (Appeals and Review Unit – a national CPS unit which deals with cases referred and conduct independent reviews).

- Where the local resolution stage outcome was to uphold the original decision as previously stated, you can proceed to stage two, where the ARU will review
- If the review outcome at this stage is that proceedings should be instituted or reinstituted, appropriate procedures will be followed, and you will be updated
- If the outcome is again to uphold the original decision, you can consider the merits of applying to the High Court for a judicial review of the decision

The below table demonstrates the above review procedure:

Any of the 'qualifying decisions'	
Decision made by the Chief Crown Prosecutor	Decision made by the CPS Area Prosecutor
Independently reviewed by the ARU	Local resolution (if decision is upheld, and case is eligible, proceed to stage 2 review)

### Exceptions to The Standard Review Process

Where a prosecutor has offered no evidence, the review should be conducted by a Chief Crown Prosecutor (CCP) or a Deputy Chief Crown Prosecutor (DCCP) in the local CPS office.

If the decision to offer no evidence was originally made by a Chief Crown Prosecutor, the review should be allocated to another CCP (or a DCCP). The same approach should be taken with cases which become statute barred after a decision has been made but before a review is requested or completed. In these two circumstances, there is no further review by the ARU.

The below table demonstrates the above:

Decision to offer no evidence OR The statutory time limit has expired prior to a review request or completion	
Original decision made by the Chief Crown Prosecutor	Original decision made by the CPS Area Prosecutor
Allocated to another CCP or DCCP to review (who was not involved in the original decision)	Allocated to a CCP or DCCP to review

### Central Casework Division

The other review process in addition to the above is where a decision has been taken within a Central Casework Division (CCD). Cases are undertaken in a CCD when they are the most complex, for example cases of organised child sexual abuse).

In these circumstances, the review will be conducted by another CCD prosecutor who has not been involved in the original decision or another suitably qualified prosecutor who has the necessary specialist knowledge. Following the review within the CCD, there is no further review by the ARU.

## 4.2 Right to Review Police Decisions

The Victims' Right to Review (VRR) Scheme gives you the right to ask for a review of a police decision. This applies where a suspect has been identified and interviewed.

### Eligibility

You have the right to request a review if the police decide:

- Not to charge someone
- Your case doesn't meet the test for the Crown Prosecution Service (CPS) and therefore do not refer the case to the CPS for a charging decision

The VRR does not cover:

- Whether a crime is recorded
- Whether the investigation into a crime can continue
- Where the suspect hasn't been identified and interviewed
- Where only some of the charges are brought against some of the suspects
- Where a positive decision has been made. This could include a range of outcomes. For example, an out of court disposal has been given (e.g., a caution), community resolutions, through to charge and a court appearance
- Where the suspect is charged with a different crime from the one that was recorded. For example, the suspect is charged with common assault, but an offence of actual bodily harm was recorded
- Where you have withdrawn your complaint, or declined to cooperate with the investigation, so the police decided not to charge or refer your case to the CPS
- Decisions made before 1 April 2015

### Requesting a Review

- If your case qualifies under the scheme, you can request a review of your case
- The website of the relevant force should contain details on how to request a review
- You must request a review within three months of the decision not to charge
- Other people can apply on your behalf (with written confirmation from you), e.g.:
  - Someone who is representing you due to your disability
  - Your solicitor or Member of Parliament (MP)

### The request should include

- Your full name
- Your contact details (phone/address/email address)
- Your full address and postcode
- What the offence is (as worded on your communication from the police)
- The date the crime happened
- Any available reference (e.g., crime reference number)

### Outcomes

- The police should contact you within 10 working days after receiving your request
- An officer, who wasn't involved in your case previously, will be assigned to review it
- The officer's role is not to review the previous decision, but to take a fresh look at the evidence and make their own decision
- A review is usually completed within 30 working days, however sexual offence cases are often complex, so it may take longer

There are six potential outcomes when a new officer completes a review, they may:

1. Agree with the first decision
2. Disagree with the first decision and charge the suspect
3. Disagree with the first decision and send the case to the CPS for a decision to charge
4. Disagree with the first decision and resolve with an out of court disposal
5. Decide they need to investigate further
6. Disagree with the first decision but the statute of limitations has expired (no further action can be taken)

The police will contact you to let you know the outcome. If you are dissatisfied with the police review, you can make a complaint to the IOPC. In addition, you can apply to the High Court for a judicial review.

## 4.3 Complaints

### Crown Prosecution Service Complaints

If your case is not eligible for review under the VRR scheme, you may wish to make a complaint:

- The CPS Feedback and Complaints policy has a six-month time limit for bringing a complaint under the policy in all but the most exceptional circumstances.
- Complaints are managed at the local CPS office or CPSD, and not referred to ARU unless the complaint relates to the ARU handling of the case.

If some elements of your case are eligible for review under the VRR scheme, but some aren't, you can make a complaint for the elements which are not eligible. It is not always necessary to await the outcome of the review for the complaint to be considered and responded to. However, if there is an overlap, and it is assessed that the review must be completed first, you will be informed that the matter being dealt with as a complaint will be addressed at the end of the review process.

For more information, see <https://www.cps.gov.uk/feedback-and-complaints>

## Police Service Complaints

Police complaints must be made within 12 months of the matter you wish to complain about.

If you make a complaint outside of those time limits, a good reason for the delay must be provided. You can make a complaint:

- Via the relevant police force's website
- Directly to The Independent Office for Police Conduct (IOPC)

**Note:** If you complain directly to the IOPC, they will send the complaint to the relevant force for them to address. If the force deems it necessary, they will send it back to the IOPC.

Your complaint will be logged and formally recorded. You should hear from the relevant force without unreasonable delay.

**If you receive a response from the relevant force or IOPC and you are not satisfied:**

- You can appeal to the IOPC for a review of the response
- It may be possible for you to seek a judicial review by either the police force or IOPC

Except in limited circumstances, the appeal, review, and investigation decisions made by the IOPC are final; meaning they can only be challenged and overturned through judicial review.

## 4.4 Judicial Review

The process of judicial review involves a court ruling on whether a decision has been made lawfully – and within existing laws (for example, the Human Rights Act and Equality Act). If the court rules that the decision was made unlawfully, it may quash the decision and order reconsideration of the matter.

**Judicial review:**

- Is a way of challenging the decisions and acts of a public body on the basis that it has not acted lawfully in making that decision
- Is not an appeal and you shouldn't use it in the event of disagreeing with a public body's decision
- Is a formal legal process where a judge can examine the decision being challenged and consider whether the law has been followed correctly by the public body in making that decision

Applications for judicial review should be made promptly, but certainly within three months of the decision being challenged. Independent legal advice is recommended if you are considering applying for a judicial review.

See the IOPC or CPS website for more information:

<https://www.policeconduct.gov.uk/complaints-reviews-and-appeals/>

<https://www.cps.gov.uk/legal-guidance/appeals-judicial-review-cps-prosecuting-decisions>

## 4.5 Appealing A Sentence

If you think a sentence given is too low, you can ask for it to be reviewed by the Attorney General's Office. The key points are as follows:

- Your request must be submitted in writing within 28 days of the sentencing decision
- Anyone can ask for a sentence review; you do not have to be involved in the case
- Only one person needs to ask for a sentence to be reviewed
- Your request should provide as much information as possible, including:
  - Name of the person who was sentenced
  - Date the sentence was given
  - Court where the case was held
  - Crime committed

Only certain types of case can be reviewed, the following are included (not exhaustive):

- Indictable only offences
- Stalking that caused severe distress or fear of violence
- Harassment that caused fear of violence
- Controlling and coercive behaviour

The Attorney General's Office will review your request and decide whether to send it to the Court of Appeal, who can make a decision about the sentence. The latest they can send your case to the Court of Appeal is 5pm on the last working day, within 28 calendar days of the sentencing.

Contact details for the Attorney General's Officer are as follows:

phone: 020 7271 2492

website: [uls.referrals@attorneygeneral.gov.uk](mailto:uls.referrals@attorneygeneral.gov.uk)

## 4.6 Compensation

The police should provide you with the information on how to claim compensation for loss, damage or injury caused because of a crime you have been subjected to.

### The Criminal Injuries Compensation Authority (CICA)

You can make an application for compensation to the Criminal Injuries Compensation Authority (CICA), and they can consider claims for the following:

- Mental or physical injury following a crime of violence
- Sexual or physical abuse
- Loss of earning – where you have lack of capacity to work as the direct result of a criminal injury (for at least 28 weeks)
- Special expenses such as costs occurred as a direct result of an offence

Vulnerable and intimidated victims are entitled to assistance in making an application, for example from an ISVA. A claim should be made as soon as possible and should not be delayed until the conclusion of a case – if the defence raises the claim to undermine your credibility, the prosecution should manage this.

### Court Awarded Compensation

This is where the court makes an order for the defendant to pay compensation for any injury, loss or damage caused.

The prosecution will need to provide up to date and detailed information concerning the extend of your injuries. This may include medical reports, photographs, proof of time absent from work and proof of expenses such as dentists or opticians. Evidence of the affect that the offence has had on you should also be included within your VPS.

The CPS would not make a court order for compensation unless it is realistic that the defendant has the means to pay within a reasonable time.

A compensation order is enforceable by the Magistrates' Court and failing to abide by the order could lead to a term of imprisonment for the defendant.



## Section 5: The Victim Contact Scheme

This section contains the following information about the Victim Contact Scheme:

- Eligibility to join
- What it is
- What Victim Liaison Officers can and can't do
- What rights you have when part of the VCS

### Eligibility

You should be asked to join the Victim Contact Scheme (VCS) if:

- You are the victim of a violent or sexual crime, and
- The offender is sentenced to 12 months or more in prison, or kept in hospital for treatment under The Mental Health Act 1983

### What Is It?

The VCS is run by the National Probation Service. If you join, you will be assigned a Victim Liaison Officer who will contact you. Victim Liaison Officers can (but are not limited to):

- Inform you if the offender has been moved to an open prison
- Inform you of the offender's licence conditions on release (e.g., not to contact you)
- Inform you when the offender is due to be released
- Provide your statement regarding the offender's licence conditions (to their offender manager or the parole board for example)
- Provide your statement regarding the potential release of the offender (to the parole board) and speak on your behalf at the offender's parole board hearing
- Provide information to you about how the justice system works
- Make annual contact with you (via letter, phone, or email)
- Attend MAPPA meetings regarding the offender
- Liaise with the offender's probation officers and other supervisors (e.g., a VLO could provide your details to National Probation Service (NPS) Approved Premises staff, so that if the offender absconds or is unlawfully at large, NPS staff are able to make a check in call to you)

Victim Liaison Officers cannot:

- Inform the victim where the offender is being held
- Inform the victim where the offender is residing once released

### Your Rights

If you are part of the VCS, you have the right to:

- Request conditions to the offender's licence, relating to yours or your family's safety (e.g., an exclusion zone)
- Write a personal statement, to explain the impact of the offence to the parole board
- Request a summary of the parole board's decision, if they are considering the offender's release from custody

You do not have to join the VCS; you can choose not to. You can also change your mind.

The contact details for the scheme are - phone: 0300 060 6699 email: [vcenquiries@justice.gov.uk](mailto:vcenquiries@justice.gov.uk)

## Section 6: Civil Alternatives

This section contains information about:

- The criminal vs civil standard of proof
- Civil protection orders
- Orders regarding children

If the criminal standard of evidence is not met but the civil standard is, the following Civil Protection Orders (CPOs) can provide a form of protection for you:

- If your case isn't proceeded with
- If the defendant has been acquitted
- As an interim due to the length of criminal proceedings and often lack of bail conditions for suspects

We recognise it is common for people to have children with people they have been subjected to sexual violence by. Therefore, this section also covers the civil orders available regarding children which you may opt for.

### Criminal vs Civil

The criminal standard of proof is that of beyond reasonable doubt:

- The prosecution must prove beyond reasonable doubt that the defendant is guilty
- The prosecution bears the burden of proof
- The defence must prove that there isn't enough evidence for a guilty verdict (i.e., there is more than reasonable doubt that the defendant is guilty)
- The defence do not have to prove that the defendant is innocent or that the offences didn't take place – not guilty does not prove innocence, just that there is not enough evidence to convict the defendant

The civil standard of proof is that of the balance of probabilities:

- The party seeking a civil protection order bears the burden of proof
- The claimant (you) must prove your allegations with "clear and convincing evidence" (i.e., demonstrate it is more likely than not that the order is necessary)
- The respondent has the right to challenge a civil protection order, but they must have evidence to disprove your claims or evidence to prove that the order is being made for reasons other than for your protection for example

## 6.1 Civil Protection Orders

### Non-Molestation Orders

A non-molestation order (NMO) can prevent the perpetrator coming within a certain distance of you, your home address or even attending your place of work. It could also include your children in certain circumstances. A NMO will also prevent the perpetrator from instructing or encouraging others to do any of these actions.

#### Key points:

- A NMO order can have various provisions including social media posting
- The perpetrator named in the injunction can be arrested if they break it
- An emergency order can be applied for
- You do not have to tell the person that you want protection from that you're applying
- The court will hold a hearing which you must attend, and an order may be issued at this hearing

#### You can apply as a victim of domestic abuse when the person you want to be protected from is:

- Someone you are having or have had a relationship with
- Someone you are living with or have lived with
- Someone you have been in a relationship with for more than 6 months
- Someone who has parental responsibility for your child or grandchild
- Someone you share parental responsibility with
- An adoptive parent of your child or grandchild
- Someone your child or grandchild has been placed with for adoption
- Someone who has applied to adopt your child or grandchild
- **Your:**
  - Family member
  - Husband, wife, or civil partner
  - Former husband, former wife, or formal civil partner
  - Fiancé, fiancée or proposed civil partner
  - Boyfriend, girlfriend, partner
  - Child or grandchild if they've been adopted
  - Former fiancé, former fiancée, or former proposed civil partner (engagement or agreement to form civil partnership must have ended less than 3 years ago)

## Domestic Violence Protection Notice/Orders

A DVPN is an emergency non-molestation order and eviction notice which can be issued to the perpetrator by the police, when attending to a domestic abuse incident. Because the DVPN is a police-issued notice, it is effective from the time of issue, thereby giving you immediate support required in such a situation.

Within 48 hours of the DVPN being served on the perpetrator, an application by police to a magistrates' court for a Domestic Violence Protection Order (DVPO) must be heard. A DVPO can prevent the perpetrator from returning to a residence and from having contact with you for up to 28 days. This allows you a degree of breathing space to consider your options.

The DVPN and the DVPO contain a condition prohibiting the perpetrator from molesting you.

## Occupation Orders

Occupation orders deal with occupation of the home in both violent and non-violent relationship breakdown situations. The court must consider the likelihood of 'significant harm' to any of the parties concerned and the 'balance of harm'.

While the occupation order is in force, the person given the right to occupy has home rights. The order will say who can/can't live in the property or enter the surrounding area. The court has the power to grant an order where it considers it just and reasonable to do so.

**You can apply for an occupation order for a property if you meet the following requirements:**

- You own or rent the home and it is, was or was intended to be shared with:
- Your husband or wife, civil partner, cohabitant, family member, person you're engaged to or a parent of your child
- Your former husband, wife or civil partner is the owner or tenant, and the home is, was, or was intended to be their shared matrimonial home
- The person you cohabit or cohabited with is the owner or tenant, and the home is, was or was intended to be your shared home
- You do not own or rent the home, but you're married or in a civil partnership with the owner and you're living in the home (known as 'matrimonial home rights')

## Forced Marriage Protection Orders

A forced Marriage Protection Order (FMPO) is a type of injunction which can forbid a perpetrator from doing certain things such as taking someone out of the country or making marriage arrangements.

An FMPO can also require the person named in the order to do certain things, for example, handover passports to the court.

You can apply for an FMPO if you have been forced into a marriage or believe you are being forced into a marriage.

**An FMPO can be made against:**

- Any persons in the UK or outside, who is, or has been, involved in the forced marriage
- This could be any family member or friend, or someone unknown
- A person or many people who are involved in the forced marriage
  - e.g., an imam or a priest who is going to conduct the ceremony as well as wider family members who are acting in a harassing way

### Examples of forced marriage protection order clauses:

- The Respondent must not take the Applicant out of “insert the relevant area”
- The Respondent must halt any arrangements for the wedding of the Applicant
- The Respondent must not harass, pester, or molest the Applicant, directly or indirectly

## Stalking Protection Orders

Each application should be considered on its own. The threshold to commence criminal proceedings for the commission of a stalking offence does not need to be met for a Stalking Protection Order (SPO) to be made - this allows for early police intervention in stalking cases. An SPO however, **is not an alternative** to prosecution for stalking offences under the Protection from Harassment Act 1997.

### The police should consider applying for an SPO where it appears to them that:

- The respondent has carried out acts associated with stalking
- The respondent poses a risk of stalking to you
- There is reasonable cause to believe that the proposed order is necessary to protect you from that risk

An order has effect for a fixed period specified in the order or until a further order is made. Where a fixed period is specified in the order, it must be for a period of at least two years.

You may still be able to apply for other similar protective orders, such as Injunctions or a NMO in relation, however this depends on the circumstances of each case. The police should engage with you to obtain your views on the most appropriate conditions to request within an application for an order. The conditions of an order could include prohibiting the respondent from:

- Entering certain locations
- Contacting you by any means including via third parties
- Referring to you on social media either directly or indirectly
- Making vexatious applications to the civil court (including Family Court) which reference you
- Recording images of you
- Using any device capable of accessing the internet unless it has the capacity to retain and display the history of internet use
- Physically approaching you and/or engaging in any form of surveillance of you by any means

### The conditions of the order could include positive requirements to:

- Attend an assessment for treatment, intervention programme, mental health assessment and/or drugs and alcohol programme
- Surrender devices, provide access to accounts and devices and/or sign on at a police station

circumstances when deciding the most appropriate conditions and the above lists are not exhaustive.

## Restraining Orders

Restraining orders are often used in domestic situations and are made to protect you. The court can impose a restraining order when it is considered necessary to protect you from harassment or conduct that will put you in fear of violence, where there is sufficient evidence. It is still open to you to seek a non-molestation order or injunction from a civil court.

**Types of cases where restraining orders are likely to be included (but are not limited to):**

- Where the defendant and you know each other
- Where the defendant and you have previously been in an intimate relationship
- Where the defendant and you have ongoing contact (e.g., if you run a local business)
- Where there is evidence that the defendant has targeted you (e.g., malicious communications, public order, or criminal damage offences)

A restraining order can be made on conviction and acquittal of a defendant, as they are intended to be preventative and protective, not punitive. This ability for the court to impose restraining orders on acquittal was introduced to deal with cases where there is clear evidence that you need protection, but there is insufficient evidence to convict on criminal charges before the court. If you wish to have a restraining order made in the event of an acquittal, this must be requested by the witness care unit. The court is not able to make a restraining order where proceedings have been withdrawn or discontinued; only when the defendant has been acquitted or convicted.

Notice is required to be given to the defendant when an application for a restraining order is made (so the defendant can address the court and make representations if they wish).

**For more information on civil protection orders, see:**

<https://rightsofwomen.org.uk/get-information/violence-against-women-and-international-law/domestic-violence-injunctions/>

## 6.2 Orders Regarding Children

### Prohibited Steps Order

A Prohibited Steps Order (PSO) is an order that stops a parent who has parental responsibility from exercising that parental responsibility in relation to the issue set out in the order. I.e., the order stops a parents from doing something regarding a child as set out without the permission of the court.

**Generally, the reasons prohibited steps orders are used are:**

- To stop a child having their name changed by a parent
- To stop a child from being removed from a parent's care
- To stop a child from being removed from the jurisdiction
- To stop a child being removed from their school

Often prohibited steps orders are emergency orders and may be made without notice; the respondent is not at that time aware of the application or invited to attend.

## Child Arrangement Order

A Child Arrangement Order is most issued to the biological parents of a child when those parents separate or divorce. However, this is not always the case. Anyone who has parental responsibility can apply for a Child Arrangement Order, whether they are a biological parent, a stepparent, a guardian or another relative.

**A child arrangement order decides:**

- Where a child lives
- When a child spends time with each parent
- When and what other types of contact take place (e.g., phone calls)

It is commonly recommended for parents to attend mediation; during which a qualified mediator will consider whether an agreement on child arrangements might be reached through an alternative dispute resolution process, or whether the case will need to go to the Court. However, this not appropriate or possible in most cases involving domestic abuse and this first step of mediation can be skipped if the mediator considers that the case is not suitable for such.

## Specific Issue Orders

A specific issue order is an order granted by the family court often involving a decision being made over children where parents with parental responsibility cannot agree. As well as parents, stepparents with parental responsibility, anyone named on a child arrangement order and guardians can apply for a specific issue order. Anyone else who does not fall within these categories can apply for a specific issue order, however, to do so they will require permission from the court.

**The order is used to look at a specific question about a child's upbringing, for example:**

- Whether a child should have religious education
- Whether a certain medical treatment should be undertaken
- Whether a child should change their name

**For more information about children and the law, see:**

<https://rightsofwomen.org.uk/get-information/family-law/children-law-parents-separate/>



## Section 7: Services and Resources

This section provides information about key support services which may be of interest to you. In addition, the web links which were used for this resource are listed for reference purposes.

### 7.1 Support Services for You

#### Sexual Assault Referral Centres

Find a SARC here: <https://www.nhs.uk/service-search/other-services/rape-and-sexual-assault-referral-centres/locationsearch/364>

#### Rape Crisis

Rape Crisis provides counselling, support and therapy, an ISVA/advocacy service, helplines for anonymous information and emotional support.

Web: <https://rapecrisis.org.uk>

Helpline: 0808 802 9999

#### Women's Aid

Women's Aid provides a live chat, an email service, free resources, a forum, refuges, and local support services.

Web: <https://womensaid.org.uk>

Email: [helpline@womensaid.org.uk](mailto:helpline@womensaid.org.uk)

#### Rights of Women

Rights of Women provide free telephone advice lines for women to help with understanding the law and their legal rights.

Family Law Line: 020 7251 6577

Open: Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday 7-9pm and Friday 12-2pm

Criminal Law Line: 020 7251 8887

Open: Tuesday 2-4pm and 7-9pm, Thursday 2-4pm and Friday 10am-12pm

Sexual Harassment At Work Line: 020 7490 0152

Open: Monday 3-5pm and Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday 6-8pm

## 7.2 Web Links

<https://www.citizensadvice.org.uk/about-us/about-us1/citizens-advice-witness-service/>

<https://www.college.police.uk/guidance/violence-against-women-and-girls/protective-measures-and-civil-orders>

<https://www.cps.gov.uk/child-sexual-abuse-review-panel>

<https://www.cps.gov.uk/feedback-and-complaints>

<https://www.cps.gov.uk/legal-guidance/appeals-judicial-review-cps-prosecuting-decisions>

<https://www.cps.gov.uk/legal-guidance/restraining-orders-section-5-protection-harassment-act-1997>

<https://www.cps.gov.uk/legal-guidance/stalking-protection-orders>

<https://www.cps.gov.uk/legal-guidance/termination-proceedings-including-discontinuance>

<https://www.cps.gov.uk/legal-guidance/victims-right-review-scheme>

<https://www.cps.gov.uk/victims-witnesses>

<https://www.gov.uk/apply-forced-marriage-protection-order>

<https://www.gov.uk/ask-crown-court-sentence-review>

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/domestic-violence-protection-orders/domestic-violence-protection-notices-dvpns-and-domestic-violence-protection-orders-dvpos-guidance-sections-24-33-crime-and-security-act-2010>

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/get-support-as-a-victim-of-crime/information-about-the-victim-contact-scheme>

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/the-code-of-practice-for-victims-of-crime/code-of-practice-for-victims-of-crime-in-england-and-wales-victims-code#summary-of-victims-rights>

<https://www.gov.uk/injunction-domestic-violence>

<https://www.gov.uk/looking-after-children-divorce>

<https://www.judiciary.uk/you-and-the-judiciary/judicial-review/>

<https://www.policeconduct.gov.uk/>

# VictimFocus

CHALLENGE | CHANGE | INFLUENCE

## VictimFocus

LEARNING ACADEMY