

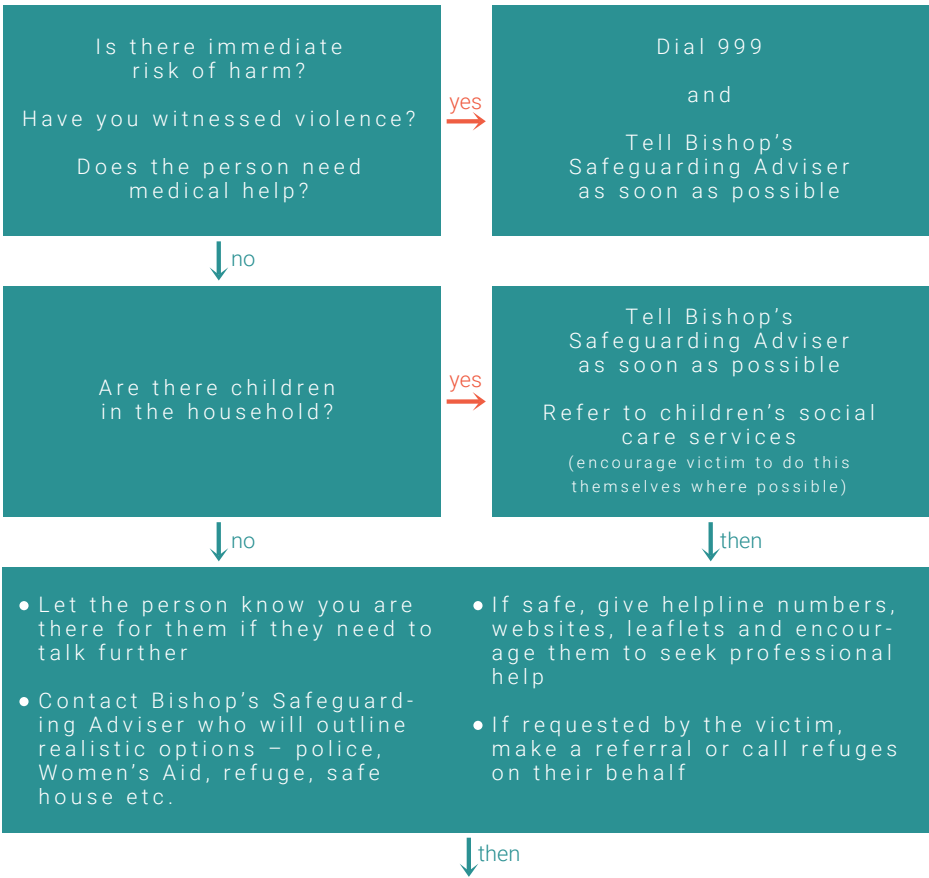
Domestic Violence & Abuse

Responding If You're a Parish Safeguarding Co-ordinator

Think Safety First

- All actions should carefully consider the risk to the safety of the victim, any children in the household and yourself
- Take care not to increase the danger to the victim, or any children, by offering helplines or communicating in ways that may alert their abuser that they have told someone else or are seeking help.

START HERE 



Record

- Keep a brief objective note of date, facts and context of what you have been told.
- Pass a copy of the record to the Bishop's Safeguarding Adviser, when you have discussed the concern with them or are required to tell them
- Keep records confidential and store securely on church premises

You MUST tell the Bishop's Safeguarding Adviser if:

- Both victim and alleged perpetrator are members of your church
- The alleged perpetrator is a church officer
- Before discussing any safety or exit plan with the victim
- There is the potential for damage for the Church



DO

- Be aware of who could over hear you speaking to the victim, to maintain confidentiality
- Take time to listen – and believe
- Affirm the strength and courage it takes to survive and speak about the abuse
- Reassure that the abuse is wrong and not their fault
- Be sensitive to background and culture – how do these affect the person?
- Be aware of protective factors such as support from friends and family
- Encourage them to focus on their own needs – they may not have done this for a long time
- Ask what they want to happen and what they need from the church – offer help in response to need which lets them keep in control
- Agree safe ways to contact and stay in touch
- Tell person that you have made a record and who you must share it with
- Seek consent before sharing information outside The Church of England – Birmingham procedure as described in the flow chart on the previous page

DON'T

- Ignore what someone is telling you
- Promise to keep the abuse a secret
- Share any information about the victim with the alleged perpetrator
- Discuss with church members who could inadvertently pass information to the alleged perpetrator
- Make judgements about the person or the level of abuse
- Investigate or ask for proof
- Recommend any form of couple counselling
- Ask the victim to forgive

USEFUL CONTACTS

Bishop's Safeguarding Adviser	07342 993 844
Birmingham & Solihull Women's Aid	0808 800 0028
West Mercia Women's Aid	0800 980 3331
Staffordshire Women's Aid	0870 2700 123
Black Country Women's Aid	0121 552 6448
Men's Advice Line	0808 801 0327
Galop (LGBT)	0800 999 5428
Action on Elder Abuse	0808 808 8141
National Domestic Violence Helpline	0808 2000 247
Emergency Injunction Support	0844 8044 999

