Mapping the Landscape of Domestic Abuse Activity in the Family Justice System

New provisions and developments: 2020 – November 2026

Category	Organisation	Specific Activity or Output
Legislation and Rules	Government	Domestic Abuse Act 2021
		Violence Against Women, Domestic Abuse and Sexual Violence (Wales) Act 2015
		Matrimonial and Family Proceedings Act 1984, Part 4B
		The Prohibition of Cross-Examination in Person (Civil and Family Proceedings) Regulations 2022
		The Prohibition of Cross-Examination in Person (Fees of Court-Appointed Qualified Legal Representatives) (Amendment) Regulations 2024
		The Legal Aid, Sentencing and Punishment of Offenders Act 2012 (Legal Aid: Family and Domestic Abuse) (Miscellaneous Amendments) Order 2023, articles 4(3), 7(3)
		The Legal Aid, Sentencing and Punishment of Offenders Act 2012 (Legal Aid: Domestic Abuse) (Amendment) Order 2024
		Victims and Prisoners Act 2024, s 19 (domestic abuse related death reviews), s 20 (notifying schools of child victims of domestic abuse); s 18 ('Jade's Law': restricting parental responsibility where one parent kills the other) comes into force on 18/12/2026.
		Courts and Tribunals Bill 2026-27, cl 16 (repeal of the presumption of parental involvement), in House of Lords awaiting final stages and royal assent.
	Family Procedure Rules Committee (FPRC)	Family Procedure Rules Part 3A, rule 2A (victims of domestic abuse)
		Family Procedure Rules, rule 6.23A (service on persons in a refuge)
Case Law	Court of Appeal	*Re H-N* [2021] EWCA Civ 448

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		K v K [2022] EWCA Civ 468
		Re B [2022] EWCA Civ 1439
		Re A (A Child: Findings of Fact) [2022] EWCA Civ 1652
		A v B and C [2023] EWCA Civ 360
		Re E, F and G (Interim Child Arrangements) [2024] EWCA Civ 874
		Re M (Children: Contact in Prison) [2024] EWCA Civ 1104
		Re O (Domestic Abuse: International Relocation) [2025] EWCA Civ 888
		Re D (Change of Circumstances: Domestic Abuse Allegations) [2026] EWCA Civ 969
		Re C (Child Arrangements Orders: Domestic Abuse: Child Focused Court) [2026] EWCA Civ 1216
	High Court (Family Division)	*Re M (Private Law Proceedings: Case Management: Intimate Images)* [2022] EWHC 986 (Fam)
		F v M [2023] EWFC 5: coercive and controlling behaviour
		Re Z (Disclosure to Social Work England: Findings of Domestic Abuse) [2023] EWHC 447 (Fam)
		Re Z (Prohibition on Cross-Examination: No QLR) [2024] EWFC 22 (PFD)
		A Local Authority v D and others [2024] EWFC 61: HMCTS Protocol for Managing Potentially Violent People
		M v F [2024] EWHC 723 (Fam) (PFD): fact-finding where rape or sexual assault alleged
		Re A (A Child: Appeal: Case Management Decision: Identity of Expert) [2024] EWHC 1669 (Fam): need to consider participation directions and enable best evidence
		Re T & O (Appeal: Fair Hearings: Delegation of Judicial Functions) [2024] EWHC 2236 (Fam)
		ER v NT (Need for Fact Finding Hearing) [2025] EWHC 2146 (Fam)
		Re Y (Experts and Alienating Behaviour: The Modern Approach) [2026] EWFC 38 (PFD)
		GI v K [2026] EWHC 480 (Fam): failure to consider domestic abuse allegations
		KM v LN (Appeal: Occupation Order and Interim Child Arrangements) [2026] EWHC 2123 (Fam)
		There have been numerous other decisions of the High Court and Family Court applying the established case law to the facts of particular cases in (a) appeals against decisions not to hold a fact-finding hearing; (b) appeals against findings (or non-findings) of fact; and (c)

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		welfare decisions following fact-finding, including decisions to order no contact and to restrict parental responsibility.
Practice Directions	FPRC	PD12J – Child arrangements and contact orders: domestic abuse and harm
		PD3AA – Vulnerable witnesses
		PD3AB – Prohibition of cross-examination in person
		PD12Q – Orders under s.91(14) Children Act 1989
		PD27C – Attendance of IDVAs and ISVAs
		PD36Z – Pilot scheme: Private law reform: Investigative approach, incorporating Annex: PD12B (Pilot) – Private law reform: Investigative approach
	Senior Judiciary	Disclosure of Information between Family and Criminal Agencies and Jurisdictions: 2024 Protocol
Practice Guidance	Home Office and Ministry of Justice	Domestic Abuse Protection Notice and Domestic Abuse Protection Order Guidance (October 2026)
	Family Justice Council	Remote and Hybrid Hearings Guidance (November 2020)
		Guidance on responding to a child's unexplained reluctance, resistance or refusal to spend time with a parent and allegations of alienating behaviour (December 2024)
		Best Practice Guidance for Practitioners on Making an Application for a Protective Injunction under the Family Law Act 1996 (January 2026)
	President of the Family Division	Fact-Finding Hearings and Domestic Abuse in Private Law Children Proceedings: Guidance for Judges and Magistrates (May 2022)
		Practice Guidance: Independent Domestic Violence Advisers and Independent Sexual Violence Advisers (Family Courts) (April 2023)
		Guidance 2026: Non-Molestation Orders under the Family Law Act 1996 (March 2026)
	Mr Justice Peel	Standard Orders – cross-examination and QLR provisions (February 2023)
	Cafcass	Domestic Abuse Practice Guidance and Pathway Domestic Abuse Practice Policy (v3 December 2025)
	Cafcass Cymru	Domestic Abuse Practice Guidance Suite (May 2025)
Statutory Guidance	Home Office	Statutory Guidance on the Domestic Abuse Act 2021 (July 2022)
		Statutory Guidance: Qualified Legal Representative Appointed by the Court (July 2022)
		Domestic Abuse Related Death Reviews: Statutory Guidance (September 2026)

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	Welsh Government	National Training Framework on Violence Against Women, Domestic Abuse and Sexual Violence: Statutory Guidance (March 2023)
		Single Unified Safeguarding Review: Statutory Guidance (October 2024)
Training	Judicial College	Mandatory half day domestic abuse training for all family judges (2022-23)
		Private law induction for new family judges (ongoing)
		Financial Remedies Court induction (ongoing)
	SafeLives	Domestic Abuse Training for Family Lawyers
	Family Law Bar Association and Inns of Court College of Advocacy	Advocacy and the Vulnerable (Family) training
	Cafcass	Domestic Abuse Learning and Development Programme for Family Court Advisers, including Addressing Domestic Abuse in the Family Court
	Cafcass Cymru	Safe & Together training for all Family Court Advisers
Research, Reports, Publications	Ministry of Justice	Assessing Risk of Harm to Children and Parents in Private Law Children Cases (2020)
		Domestic Abuse and Private Law Children Cases: A Literature Review (2020)
		Implementation Plan (2020)
		Implementation Plan: Delivery Update (2023)
		Domestic Abuse Commissioner's Report – 'The Family Court and Domestic Abuse: Achieving Cultural Change' – Government Response (November 2023)
		Private Law Pathfinder Pilot: Process Evaluation and Financial Analysis (March 2025)
		Private Law Pathfinder Pilot: Understanding the Experience of Children and Families (January 2026)
		Domestic Abuse Commissioner's Report 'Everyday Business': Government Response (June 2026)
		Child Focused Courts: An update on the implementation and national rollout of the Government's Child Focused Courts Programme (October 2026)
		Child Focused Courts Target Operating Model (November 2026)
	Domestic Abuse Commissioner and Victims' Commissioner	Improving the Family Court Response to Domestic Abuse (November 2021)
	Domestic Abuse Commissioner	The Family Court and Domestic Abuse: Achieving Cultural Change (July 2023)

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		Everyday Business: Addressing Domestic Abuse and Continuing Harm Through a Family Court Review and Reporting Mechanism (October 2025)
		Family Court Review and Reporting Mechanism stage 2 – Child Focused Courts (ongoing)
	Resolution	Domestic Abuse in Financial Remedy Proceedings (October 2024)
	Women's Aid England	Two Years, Too Long: Mapping Action on the Harm Panel's Findings (June 2022)
	Rights of Women	Learning from the Family Justice and Domestic Abuse Partnership in Surrey (January 2026)
	Surviving Economic Abuse	Seen Yet Sidelined (September 2023)
	House of Commons Library	Child Maintenance: Support for Victims of Domestic Abuse (Research Briefing, May 2024)
		Protecting Children from Domestic Abuse (Debate Pack, November 2025)
		Child Arrangements: The Family Court and Domestic Abuse (Research Briefing, February 2026)
	Public Accounts Committee	Improving Family Court Services for Children (HC 883, 2025)
	House of Lords Public Services Committee	Reforming the Child Maintenance Service (HL 181, 2025)
	Nuffield Foundation	Dividing Property and Finances on Divorce: What Happens in Cases Involving Domestic Abuse? (2024)
	Academic	The Family Justice Response to Domestic Abuse (University of Oxford Faculty of Law, October 2024)
		Private Family Law and Child Sexual Abuse: A Research Report (University of Oxford, July 2026)
	Practitioner	Domestic Abuse and the Family Justice System: Law and Practice (Bloomsbury, 2026)
Reviews	Ministry of Justice	Review of the Presumption of Parental Involvement, 2020-25. Publications include: Final Report, Literature Review, BAME and Child Sexual Abuse report, and Judgment Analysis.
		Review of Civil Legal Aid, 2023-25. Publications include: reports from four separate workstreams and an overarching summary report.
Committees, Working Groups	Family Justice Board	Domestic Abuse and Positive Outcomes for Children Sub-Group
	FPRC	Domestic Abuse Working Group
	Family Justice Council	Domestic Abuse Working Group
	Cafcass	Domestic Abuse Practice Reference Group
Strategies, Policies	Government	Freedom from Violence and Abuse: A Cross-Government Strategy (December 2025)

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		Proposed repeal of the presumption of parental involvement (October 2025)
		National rollout of Child Focused Courts (March 2026)