



**stonewall housing**  
Advice Service Factsheet

Writing a domestic abuse supporting statement

### Why write a supporting statement?

If you have experienced violence and you are making a housing application, it can be helpful to write a supporting statement about your experiences. You can use this statement to express the history of what happened to you, and to explain how it has affected you. This can be helpful in making your case to housing providers or the local council.

If you would like to write a supporting statement, it is helpful to follow the format below, this way your statement will be clear and include all the information needed.

### The introduction

The introduction at the top of the page should include the following information:

- name
- date of Birth
- NI Number
- your current address, or if you are sofa surfing or sleeping rough, state 'no fixed abode' and include a c/o address for correspondence.

### The body of the statement

The main part of the statement should be divided into sections, which cover the headings below.

*General overview of the relationship before the abuse began:*

- who the perpetrator is
- your relationship to him/her
- when the relationship began
- if you moved in with each other, when and where
- if you are fleeing your family home, when or where

For example:

'I met my girlfriend, Ms Charming six years ago. I moved into her flat on the 01.01.06 at 1, Any Street, Anyplace. At first the relationship was good.'

*A note about the deterioration of the relationship:*

For example:

'Things went well until my partner lost her job. Her attitude to me changed.'

*A note about the first incident of domestic abuse:*

- what was the approximate date?
- who did what?
- who was a witness (if anyone)? Did the abuse occur in front of your children? Did it include your children?
- was it reported to the police? If so, include crime reference numbers.
- was it reported to anyone else, for example a GP, the A & E department, midwife, counsellor, drugs worker, CPN?
- what was the effect on you emotionally?
- what was the effect on your children?

*A note about the last incident of domestic abuse:*

- what was the approximate date?
- who did what?
- who was a witness (if anyone)? Did the abuse occur in front of your children? Did it include your children?
- was it reported to the police? If so, include crime reference numbers.
- was it reported to anyone else, for example a GP, the A & E department, midwife, counsellor, drugs worker, CPN?
- what was the effect on you emotionally?
- what was the effect on your children?

*A note about the most serious incident of domestic abuse*

- what was the approximate date?
- who did what?
- who was a witness (if anyone)? Did the abuse occur in front of your children? Did it include your children?
- was it reported to the police? If so, include crime reference numbers.

- was it reported to anyone else, for example a GP, the A & E department, midwife, counsellor, drugs worker, CPN?
- what was the effect on you emotionally?
- what was the effect on your children?

*Summarise how the abuse is making you feel in terms of your confidence and self worth:*

- has it affected your ability to maintain friendship and other relationships?
- has it affected your ability to make new friendships and relationships?
- are you experiencing long-term health issues as a result of the abuse?
- are you experiencing financial difficulties as a result of the abuse?
- are your children affected by the abuse they witnessed/experienced? If so, how?
- are you still in contact with the perpetrator? If so, how does that make you feel?
- if you have left and do not have secure accommodation yet, how does that make you feel?
- if you have left, are you still receiving threats via email, text or phone?
- if you have not reported any incidents to the police or a third party, why.

People understand that there are complex issues involved in reporting perpetrators to the police. The most important thing is to explain why you have not reported the abuse. Fear of retribution is a good enough reason.

*A statement reinforcing the point that has been forced to leave your home due to domestic abuse:*

- where are you now staying?
- is this place secure?
- how long had you lived in your previous home?
- is it safe to return?

## **Safety**

This statement can be a very difficult document to write and its important to take your time and ensure above all, that you are in a place where it is safe to write. If you need help, seek support and advice.