**LEGAL AID FOR DIVORCE, FINANCES AND PRIVATE LAW CHILDREN MATTERS**

**What you need to provide, in order to qualify for legal aid:**

In order to be eligible for legal aid, in respect of divorce, finances and children matters, you must be the victim of domestic abuse, not the perpetrator.

Therefore, you will need to provide your solicitor with **ONE** of the following types of evidence, which will be required by the solicitor at your initial appointment:

1. The opponent has a relevant unspent conviction for a domestic violence offence;
2. The other party is on police bail for a domestic violence offence. The amendments to regulation 42 do, however, provide that funding may be withdrawn where no charges are ultimately brought.
3. The opponent has a relevant police caution for a domestic violence offence given with the 24 month period immediately preceding the date of the application;
4. Evidence of relevant criminal proceedings against the opponent for a domestic violence offence which have not concluded;
5. A relevant protective injunction against the opponent, which is in force or which was granted within the 24 month period immediately preceding the date of the application for legal aid;
6. An Undertaking given by your opponent, with whom you have been in a relationship, in England, Wales, Scotland and Northern Ireland, provided that there is not a cross undertaking. The undertaken is in relation to violence;
7. Letter from a chair of a multi-agency risk assessment conference (MARAC), confirming that you were referred as a high risk victim of domestic violence, and that the conference took place within the 24 month period immediately preceding the date of the application; and a plan has been put in place to protect you from risk of harm by your opponent;
8. Copy of a finding of fact, made in proceedings in the UK within the 24 month period immediately preceding the date of the application for legal aid;
9. Letter or report from a health professional that they have examined you within the 24 month period immediately preceding the date of the application, and you had injuries or a condition consistent with those of a victim of domestic violence AND they have no reason to believe that your injuries or condition were not caused by domestic violence;
10. There has been a referral to a specialist domestic violence support service by a health professional
11. Letter from a social services department confirming that, within the 24 month period immediately preceding the date of the application, you were assessed as being, or at risk as being, a victim of domestic violence by your partner, or a copy of the assessment;
12. A letter or report from a domestic violence support organisation (e.g. Women’s Refuge), confirming admission to a domestic violence support organisation for a period of at least 24 hours within the 24 month period immediately preceding the date of the application. Your attendance must relate to allegations of domestic violence.
13. Entry to a refuge was refused due to there being insufficient accommodation
14. A relevant Domestic Violence Protection Notice or Order has been made pursuant to the Crime and Security Act 2010
15. A Court Order has been made binding over the other party in connection with a domestic violence offence

Similar evidence will also be required if you are concerned and relying on your children being at risk of harm as a result of your partner’s behaviour.

If you are able to provide us with **at least one** of the above, then please contact us to arrange an appointment with our relevant solicitor, on one of the numbers listed below:

* Pontypridd Office 01443 486666
* Pencoed Office 01656 862424
* Talbot Green Office 01443 223265
* Swansea Office 01792 455400

Alternatively, you can email your query to info@dwharris.co.uk, or complete our query form online, by clicking on, or copying the link below into your internet browser:

<http://www.dwharris.co.uk/site/contact/enquiry_form/>

**What to do if you cannot provide any of the evidence listed above:**

If you are unable to satisfy any of the above evidence requirements, we may still be able to assist you with our competitive rates. Please contact us to find out more in this respect.