

Domestic abuse guidance for private rental sector landlords

This short guide provides private sector landlords with information on how to identify domestic abuse and guidance on how best to respond. You can also find information to help you signpost victims/survivors to advice and support.

As a private sector landlord, you are likely to come across victims/survivors of domestic abuse and you may find yourself in a position where you spot signs that lead you to believe abuse is happening. A tenant may even disclose abuse to you. Within your professional remit, it is possible to help and support victims/survivors, to enable them to maintain their tenancy and live safely.

This does not presume that, as a landlord, you should have to provide in-depth support to your tenants on this issue, but it recognises that you may have a unique insight into their circumstances and, by acting appropriately, you may be able to provide a safe and effective response.



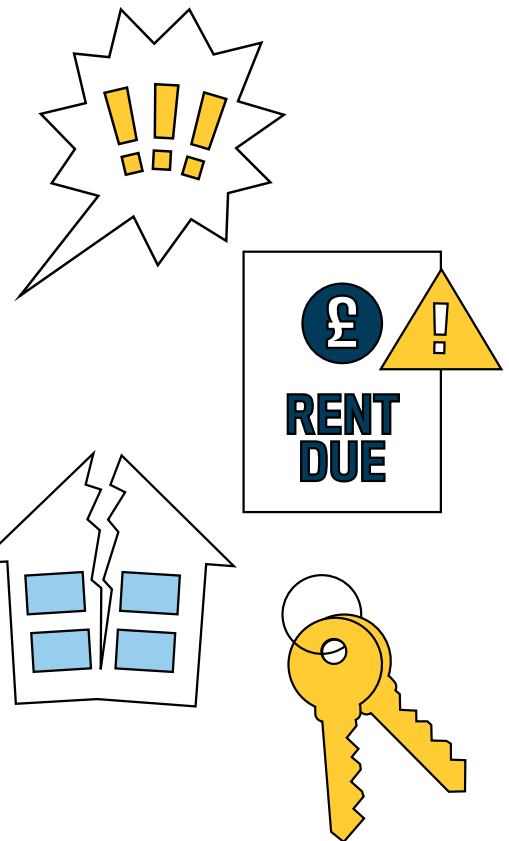
What is domestic abuse?

Domestic abuse is recognised as any incident or pattern of incidents of controlling, coercive, threatening behaviour, violence or abuse between those aged 16 or over, regardless of gender, sexuality, ethnicity, class, religion, disability, or socio-economic status. This abuse can encompass but is not limited to psychological, physical, sexual, financial, or emotional. Domestic abuse can be perpetrated by intimate partners or family members, including husbands or wives, partners or ex-partners, adolescents or adult children towards parents or siblings.

As a landlord, you can be alert to signs that domestic abuse may be happening in a household.

This includes:

- **Reports of anti-social behaviour:** there is evidence to suggest that victims/survivors are four times more likely to be subject to complaints about anti-social behaviour and, as a landlord, you can be more alert to the fact that domestic abuse can often be misidentified as anti-social behaviour.
- **Rent arrears:** victims/survivors may be more likely to fall behind with rent payments due to economic abuse.
- **Damaged property:** you may be called in to act on damage to your property which may be as a result of domestic abuse.
- **Requests for security measures or lock changes:** if the perpetrator has left the home the tenant may request security measures to be fitted.



Where to find support?

By being more alert to the signs of domestic abuse, you may be able to provide help and support by talking to your tenant, but it is important that this is done in a safe way.

Standing Together provides 'Guidance for Private Rented Sector Landlords' on how to respond. Visit the Domestic Abuse Housing Alliance website, following the links to guidance and publications. Go to dahalliance.org.uk/guidance-publications/guidance

In Hampshire, our local domestic abuse provider is Stop Domestic Abuse, visit stopdomesticabuse.uk or call the Helpline number on **0330 0533 630**.

You can find further information through the Hampshire Domestic Abuse Partnership, by visiting hants.gov.uk/socialcareandhealth/domesticabuse