

DVPN / DVPO's Fact Sheet

(Domestic Violence Protection Notice / Order)

What are DVPN/DVPO's?

DVPN/DVPO's are aimed at domestic abuse perpetrators who present an on-going risk to the victim with the objective of securing a co-ordinated approach across agencies for the protection of victims and the management of perpetrators.

The process builds on existing procedures and provides the victim with protected space to explore available options and make informed decisions regarding their safety.

The DVPN/DVPO process came into effect 30th June 2014 and provided new powers under sections 24-33 of the Crime and Security Act 2010. The DVPN and DVPO are not criminal orders and do not form part of any criminal history for the alleged offender.

DVPN (Domestic Violence Protection Notice)

A DVPN is issued by a senior police officer and enables them to secure the immediate protection of a victim (V) of domestic abuse from future violence or a threat of violence from a suspected perpetrator (P). A DVPN prohibits P from molesting V and, where they cohabit, may require P to leave those premises or even not to come within a certain distance.

The DVPN has to be authorised by an officer not lower than the rank of Superintendent who has reasonable grounds to believe:

- P has been violent or threatened violence towards the Associated Person (AP), and
- That a DVPN is necessary to protect that person.

The Superintendent must consider the opinion of AP, the welfare of any relevant people under 18 and any representations made by P or any other person who live at address.

DVPN's can only be issued where P is aged 18 or over and the police must make an application for a DVPO within 48 hours. If P breaches the order, they will be arrested and detained to appear before the next court.

DVPO (Domestic Violence Protection Order)

A DVPO can only be by the court (Magistrate's court in their civil capacity). The conditions imposed may last 14-28 days and may mirror DVPN restrictions. As with a DVPN, if it is breached by P, they are arrested and detained to appear before court. The prosecution (for a breach) will be conducted by Hertfordshire Police and not the Crown Prosecution Service (CPS).

If the court decides not to grant the DVPO, the DVPN will cease to be in effect. V is then informed and the risk assessment is revisited to assure that safety measures are adequate.

Results in Hertfordshire

Between 30th June and 9th September 2014, Hertfordshire issued 24 DVPN's and 20 DVPO's. 4 DVPO's were breached in 3 cases.