



COVID-19 & ACCOMMODATION OPTIONS

COVID-19 & ACCOMMODATION OPTIONS

Under the coronavirus rules, most of us are having to spend a lot more time at home than we usually would. If you are experiencing domestic abuse and home is not a safe or comfortable place to be, the lockdown may be making you feel particularly anxious. You might be thinking about your options, including staying somewhere else.

No-one deserves to live with abuse. The guide below has more information on your options and places you can stay. To talk about this in more detail, you can contact Scotland's Domestic Abuse and Forced Marriage Helpline at any time on

- Tel: **0800 027 1234**
- by web chat: www.sdafmh.org.uk
- by email: helpline@sdafmh.org.uk

There is more information about support services below.

If you are in immediate danger, it is best to call the police on **999**.

Can I leave my home if I am unsafe?

- Under the government's coronavirus guidance, it is ok to leave your home 'to avoid or escape risk of injury or harm'
- www.nhs.uk/conditions/coronavirus-covid-19/

Can I stay with a friend/family member?

- If necessary, you can move in with a friend or family member during this time. However, it is important to consider potential risks to people in high-risk categories – e.g. elderly people and those with underlying health conditions. If you are showing symptoms of Covid-19, it would not be advisable to move into a house with others.

Consider:

- Writing down a list of the reasons that are making it unsafe or unreasonable to stay in your home, and taking it with you
- Contacting the police on 101 if you have concerns about travel restrictions

I have nowhere to go, so where can I stay?

- If you have nowhere safe to stay, your local council has a duty to offer you temporary accommodation. This is known as 'emergency accommodation'.
- Contact your local council and explain that you have nowhere safe to stay and you are homeless.
- 'Homelessness', includes when it would not be safe or reasonable for you to keep staying in your home because of domestic abuse. This includes all forms of domestic abuse: physical, emotional, sexual, and financial abuse.
- You do not have to report the abuse to the police to get emergency accommodation.

What about my children or other members of my household?

- If you are offered emergency accommodation, this would also include members of your household who you wish to go with you.
- This can include: children, grandchildren and other family members.
- It also includes people who you are not related to but who are part of your household (e.g. carers).

What about my belongings?

- The council may be able to store your belongings for you, if necessary.



COVID-19 & ACCOMMODATION OPTIONS

What other options are there?

- If you are a woman fleeing domestic abuse, you may be able to stay in refuge accommodation.
- Refuge accommodation is provided by local Women's Aid groups.

How would I get to the emergency accommodation/ refuge?

- If you do not have transport, you could travel to your accommodation in a taxi or ask a friend or family member to help transport you.
- Remember that public transport services may be reduced or disrupted during this time.
- The local council or Women's Aid group may be able to help you with travel costs – you should ask about this when you speak to them.

I have pets, so can I take them with me?

- Unfortunately, pets are not accepted in emergency accommodation. Some refuges will accept small pets, but not all of them can. You will need to check before you leave with a pet.
- If you need to leave your home in an emergency and cannot take your pet, you could arrange for a friend or family member to care for them temporarily.
- The Dog's Trust Freedom Project is a dog fostering service for people fleeing domestic abuse and going into refuge, and is still running during lockdown:
www.dogstrust.org.uk/help-advice/hope-project-freedom-project/freedom-project
- Cats Protection also offer a fostering service for people fleeing domestic abuse: **www.cats.org.uk/what-we-do/paws-protect**

Where can I get more support?

- Scotland's Domestic Abuse and Forced Marriage Helpline – 24-hour support for anyone looking for information and support around domestic abuse and/or forced marriage, including talking about accommodation options.
 - Phone: **0800 027 1234**
 - Email: **helpline@sdafmh.org.uk**
 - Web chat: **www.sdafmh.org.uk**
- Your local Women's Aid group, if you are a woman looking for support: **womensaid.scot/find-nearest-wa-group**
- **Shelter Scotland** – has useful information on issues to do with housing, as well as about debt and mortgage issues.
- Your council's housing department – information on how to contact them below. Contact Scotland's Domestic Abuse and Forced Marriage Helpline if you would like support with this.



Council	Housing daytime contact	Out of hours contact
Aberdeen	03000 200 292 Mon-Fri 8:30am – 5pm	0800 917 6379
Aberdeenshire	03456 081203 Mon-Fri 8:45am-5pm	03456 081 203
Angus	03452 777 778	03452 777 778
Argyll & Bute	Campbeltown: 01586 559054 Dunoon: 01369 708535 Helensburgh: 01436 658806 Lochgilthead: 01586 559054 Oban: 01631 567926 Rothesay: 01700 501332 Text number for all Departments: 07860 023 933	0345 056 5457
Clackmannanshire	01259 225115	01259 450 000
Dumfries & Galloway	030 33 33 3000	01387 273660
Dundee	01382 432001	0800 633 5843
East Ayrshire	Temporary number: 07810054320	07810054320
East Dunbartonshire	Homelessness Team – online form during office hours, available at www.eastdunbarton.gov.uk/residents/housing/advice-support/homelessness	0300 1234 510
East Lothian	01620 827827 and ask for the local housing office	0800 169 1611
East Renfrewshire	0141 577 3001	0800 052 0180
Edinburgh	0131 529 7368 Mon,Wed,Thur: 8:30am-5pm Tue: 10am-5pm Fri: 8:30am-3:40pm	0800 032 5968
Falkirk	01324 503600 Mon-Fri: 9am-5pm	08005 874 440
Fife	Temporary number: 03451 550099	0800 028 6231
Glasgow	South – 0141 276 8201 North East – 0141 276 6153 North West – 0141 276 6168	0800 838 502
Highland	01349 886602	01349 886 691
Inverclyde	01475 715 378	01475 715 880
Midlothian	0131 271 3397	0131 663 7211
Moray	0300 123 4566 Mon-Fri: 8:45am – 5pm	03457 565 656
North Ayrshire	01294 314600 Mon-Thur: 9am-4:45pm Fri: 9am-4:30pm	0800 019 6500



Council	Housing daytime contact	Out of hours contact
North Lanarkshire	Airdrie: 01236 758035 Bellshill: 01698 332340 Coatbridge: 01236 812561 Cumbernauld: 01236 632726 Kilsyth: 01236 828120 Moodiesburn: 01236 638888 Motherwell: 01698 274135 Shotts: 01501 824747 Viewpark: 01698 403700 Wishaw: 01698 302920	0800 953 2424
Orkney	01856 873 535	07921 582 962
Perth & Kinross	01738 476 000	0800 917 0708
Renfrewshire	0300 300 0222 Mon-Thur: 8:45am-4:45pm Fri: 8:45am-3:55pm	0800 121 4466
Scottish Borders	01896 661 385 Mon-Thur: 8:45am-5pm Fri: 8:45am-15:45pm	01896 752111
Shetland	0800 212 829/ 01595 744 360 Mon-Fri: 9am-5pm	01595 695611
South Ayrshire	0300 123 0900	0808 100 3151
South Lanarkshire	0303 123 1012	0800 24 20 24
Stirling	01786 237 900	01786 404 040
West Dunbartonshire	Temporary number: 01389 738282	0800 197 1004
Western Isles	Lewis: (01851) 82282 Harris: (01859) 502367 Uist: (01870) 602425 Barra: (01871) 810431	01851 701 702
West Lothian	Temporary number: 01506 280000	01506 280 000 or 0800 032 3450