

Explainer | Domestic & Sexual Abuse Acronyms

ABBREVIATIONS / MEANING	
ABE	Achieving Best Evidence: Video interviews for victims of serious crimes, which may later be used in court as their evidence.
ABH	Actual Body Harm
AP	Alleged Perpetrator
CCB	Coercive and controlling behaviour
CPS	Crown Prosecution Service
DA / DV	Domestic Abuse - Domestic Violence
DAA	Domestic Abuse Act 2021
DAPN	Domestic Abuse Protection Order. The next step up from a DAPN
DARA	Domestic Abuse Risk Assessment
DASH	Domestic Abuse, Stalking, and Harassment (risk assessment tool)
DHR	Domestic Homicide Review
DVDS	Domestic Violence Disclosure Scheme aka Clare's Law. The scheme has two functions: the 'right to ask' the police about a partner's previous history of domestic abuse or violent acts; and the 'right to know', in which police can pro-actively disclose information
FGM	Female Genital Mutilation
FMU	Forced Marriage Unit
FOI	Freedom of Information
GBH	Grievous Bodily Harm
GBV	Gender-Based Violence
GDPR	The General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR) is a European Union (EU) law that protects the privacy and security of individuals' personal data
HR	High Risk
HBA	Honour-Based Abuse
ICO	Initial Contact Officer: Sexual offences
IDVA	Independent Domestic Violence Advisor
ISVA	Independent Sexual Violence Advisor
ISP	Individual Safety Plan: An ISP is a personalised plan that helps someone to prepare, in advance, for a violent or abusive situation
IPV	Intimate Partner Violence
MAPPA	Multi-Agency Public Protection Arrangements: Manages offenders in the community
MARAC	Multi-Agency Risk Assessment Conference. A victim-focused information sharing and risk management meeting attended by all key agencies where high-risk cases are discussed

Domestic Abuse and Sexual Abuse Abbreviations

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MASH	Multi-Agency Safeguarding Hub. A partnership between Children's social care, education, youth services, NHS, police & probation working together to safeguard children.
NFA	No Further Action. If there is not enough evidence the police or CPS may decide not to charge and no further action will be taken.
HCDV	National Centre for Domestic Violence
NPCC	National Police Chiefs' Council (guidance for sexual abuse cases)
Op Encompass	Operation Encompass is a police and education safeguarding partnership enabling schools to offer immediate support to children experiencing domestic abuse.
OPVA	Older Person's Violence Advisor
PNC	Police National Computer: The PNC is used to carry out real-time checks, for example on a person's criminal record
PPO	Police Protection Order. In an emergency situation children can be placed under police protection for up to 72 hours.
PR	Parental Responsibility
SARC	Sexual Assault Referral Centre: A confidential medical and practical support service for people who have recently been raped or sexually assaulted.
SHPO	Sexual Harm Prevention Order: A SHPO is an order that can be issued to a person who has been convicted of an offence listed in either Schedule 3 or Schedule 5 of the Sexual Offences Act 2003.
SOA	Sexual Offences Act 20
SOPO	Sexual Offences Prevention Order: Police can apply to the courts for a civil order if they can show that someone poses a threat of serious sexual harm)
SOR	Sex Offenders Register
SPO	Stalking Protection Order: An SPO is a civil order, made on application to the magistrate's court by the police. Applications for Interim or full orders can be made where the threshold to commence criminal proceedings for the commission of an offence has not yet or will not be met
SVSH	Sexual Violence & Sexual Harassment
VAWG	Violence Against Women and Girls
VPS	Victim Personal Statement: Allows victims to write a new statement to explain how the crime has affected them, physically, emotionally, financially or in any other way
ViSOR	Violent and Sexual Offenders Register

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