

'DOMESTIC VIOLENCE'

Men, Legal Aid and Family disputes

In just one week our survey of men's experience of Domestic Violence has attracted almost 100 responses. To ensure that we can bring attention to the problems faced by men accessing help in the Family Court we need your help to get us past 500.

We're grateful to all the men who've completed the survey so far. They've told us:

- Was just ridiculed by Cafcass whose response was 'but you're a man'.
- I didn't know in the beginning that legal aid was still available so ...I was representing myself against my ex-wife's barrister. When I was helped and found out about legal aid it took 12 weeks to get it.
- I didn't report any of the initial violence or abuse because of the stigma of being male it was only after the child arrangements proceedings took place that I sought support
- No-one believed me and i was falsely accused of being the abuser. Social services refused to believe a man could be a victim and portrayed me as the abuser in court with no evidence at all. it was disgusting sexist nonsense.
- They said that they were unable to accommodate me since Domestic Violence aid was provided only to women and children. So I had to go up and gather as much evidence myself and present it to the judge since I couldn't afford a lawyer.
- Lied to by social services. Lied about by social services. Wife went to DV services as a female abuser looking for help was told they could only help her as a victim. The entire system gives the impression that men are abusers and women are victims. It couldn't be more wrong. I stood to lose EVERYTHING - children, home, job everything and all with the full support of social services who lied in court.

Please help us to help YOU, and THEM

IF YOU ARE MALE & HAVE EXPERIENCED DOMESTIC VIOLENCE (*) PLEASE COMPLETE OUR SURVEY HERE:

<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/maleDVvictimssurvey>

You can also help by 'PASSING IT ON' to encourage men to complete the survey

(*) YOU CAN READ MORE ABOUT THE DEFINITION HERE:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/new-government-domestic-violence-and-abuse-definition>

PLEASE NOTE - This survey is designed to be anonymous. Please ensure that you do not include any information that would identify yourself or others in completing the survey.