



Spotlight on skills: Advocacy skills

Witness statement

APPLICANT v RESPONDENT

1. I am the applicant in this matter and I make this statement in support of my Scott Schedule pursuant to the order of the court dated 14 October 2020.
2. The applicant and I have a daughter together who is now 18 months old. She has lived with me since the respondent and I separated in April 2020 when our daughter was approximately 12 months old. She does not spend any time with the respondent because I do not consider him safe for the reasons set out in this statement.
3. The applicant and I met in January 2016. Initially our relationship was perfectly normal, however, after being together for around a year I now look back and see that he had become emotionally abusive and controlling. He didn't like me spending time with my friends, especially male friends, and he stopped me going out unless he was there too. He told me what to wear and how to do my hair and make-up. He would always tell me that I looked "a mess" and that I was too fat to wear skirts or tight-fitting clothing. When we moved in together he told me it would be easier if we opened a joint bank account but he also told me to close all my own accounts and have my salary transferred to the joint account. I now see that he did this so he could also control my finances because I could no longer spend my money freely as he said it was our "joint" money. He always has his own bank accounts and credit cards.
4. At around Christmas 2017 things got from bad to worse. My work Christmas party was coming up on Friday the 8th December 2017. I was really looking forward to going but the respondent did not want me to go at all. On Friday 1st December 2017 I was on my laptop on the bed searching online for a Christmas jumper to wear to the party. At around 11pm the respondent came home, drunk, from his own Christmas party and started shouting at me for no reason. I told him to stop and that I would talk to him in the morning when he had sobered up. This made him really angry and he grabbed my laptop and threw it on the floor. He then pulled me off the bed and pushed me against the wardrobe and pinned me there by my wrists. I told him he was hurting me but ignored me and told me that if I didn't apologise he would make me. I said I was sorry and he threw me on the floor. He then walked off to the bathroom to get ready for bed and after about 10 minutes came out and went to sleep in our bed as if nothing had happened. The next morning, I showed him my smashed laptop and the bruises on my wrists he said he was sorry, that he would never do it again and blamed the alcohol.

5. The next violent incident was Valentine's Day 2018. We were meant to go out for dinner at 8pm that evening but at around 6pm I was sitting on my phone looking at everyone's Valentine's Day posts on Facebook when the respondent came home from work. He grabbed my phone off me and started looking at it to see what I was doing. I tried to take the phone back from him but when I moved near him he whacked me across the face with the hand holding the phone causing a cut to my bottom lip. I ran to the bathroom and locked the door behind me. The respondent followed me and started banging on the door telling me to let him in. When I refused, he started kicking the door to break it open, so I opened the door. He then came in and grabbed me by the hair and made me look at myself in the mirror saying, "look what you made me do". He then told me he couldn't take me out looking like I did so he left and was gone all night. The next day he came home and said nothing about the night before.

[ends]