

## Resolution working for clients – changes to domestic abuse legal aid

A statutory instrument comes into force on Wednesday 21 May 2025 [The Legal Aid, Sentencing and Punishment of Offenders Act 2012 \(Legal Aid: Domestic Abuse\) \(Miscellaneous Amendments\) Order 2025](#) which amends legal aid for domestic abuse victim/survivors and aligns legal aid legislation with other legislation on domestic abuse and immigration. It includes several provisions which Resolution has been raising with the Ministry of Justice. It changes:

1. The scope of immigration legal aid to make legal aid available for those who are eligible to apply for leave to enter or remain in the UK under Appendix Victim of Domestic Abuse to the Immigration Rules.
2. The evidence requirements for domestic abuse to ensure that victims can provide overseas medical evidence from appropriate health professionals for legal aid applications in domestic abuse cases.
3. Terminology to align with the Domestic Abuse Act 2021, replacing 'domestic violence' with 'domestic abuse', 'financial abuse' with 'economic abuse' and recognising that abuse against an individual (B) may consist of behaviour directed at another individual (e.g., B's child).
4. Complements orders made in 2023 and 2024, in relation to the scope of legal aid for Domestic Abuse Protection Orders and Domestic Abuse Protection Notices, to ensure full availability of legal aid for individuals in respect of these orders.

We have amended our contracts, the table of amendments can be found here: [2024 Standard Civil Contract Summary of Amendments 21 May 2025.pdf](#)

In addition there have been changes to the Lord Chancellor's Guidance which can be found here: [Legal aid guidance - GOV.UK](#) . There have also been other changes to the Lord Chancellor's Guidance to update references in relation to dependents' allowances and Class II National Insurance contributions and Independent School Boards. The following documents have been updated:

- Section 4 of the Legal Aid, Sentencing and Punishment of Offenders Act 2012 (LASPO);
- the Lord Chancellor's guidance on determining financial eligibility for Controlled Work and Family Mediation;
- the Lord Chancellor's guidance on determining financial eligibility for certificated work; and
- the Lord Chancellor's Exceptional Funding Guidance

The Legal Aid, Sentencing and Punishment of Offenders Act 2012 - Evidence Requirements for Private Family Law Matters guidance evidence requirements for family law matters has been updated and can be found here: <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/funding-and-costs-assessment-for-civil-and-crime-matters>

The Guidance for Reporting Controlled Work has been amended and can be found here:  
[Guidance for reporting Controlled Work and Controlled Work Matters](#)

The sample letters to get evidence of domestic abuse will be amended.