



Crime and Security Act 2010

2010 CHAPTER 17

Domestic violence

24 Power to issue a domestic violence protection notice

- (1) A member of a police force not below the rank of superintendent (“the authorising officer”) may issue a domestic violence protection notice (“a DVPN”) under this section.
- (2) A DVPN may be issued to a person (“P”) aged 18 years or over if the authorising officer has reasonable grounds for believing that—
 - (a) P has been violent towards, or has threatened violence towards, an associated person, and
 - (b) the issue of the DVPN is necessary to protect that person from violence or a threat of violence by P.
- (3) Before issuing a DVPN, the authorising officer must, in particular, consider—
 - (a) the welfare of any person under the age of 18 whose interests the officer considers relevant to the issuing of the DVPN (whether or not that person is an associated person),
 - (b) the opinion of the person for whose protection the DVPN would be issued as to the issuing of the DVPN,
 - (c) any representations made by P as to the issuing of the DVPN, and
 - (d) in the case of provision included by virtue of subsection (8), the opinion of any other associated person who lives in the premises to which the provision would relate.
- (4) The authorising officer must take reasonable steps to discover the opinions mentioned in subsection (3).
- (5) But the authorising officer may issue a DVPN in circumstances where the person for whose protection it is issued does not consent to the issuing of the DVPN.
- (6) A DVPN must contain provision to prohibit P from molesting the person for whose protection it is issued.

- (7) Provision required to be included by virtue of subsection (6) may be expressed so as to refer to molestation in general, to particular acts of molestation, or to both.
- (8) If P lives in premises which are also lived in by a person for whose protection the DVPN is issued, the DVPN may also contain provision—
- (a) to prohibit P from evicting or excluding from the premises the person for whose protection the DVPN is issued,
 - (b) to prohibit P from entering the premises,
 - (c) to require P to leave the premises, or
 - (d) to prohibit P from coming within such distance of the premises as may be specified in the DVPN.
- (9) An “associated person” means a person who is associated with P within the meaning of section 62 of the Family Law Act 1996.
- (10) Subsection (11) applies where a DVPN includes provision in relation to premises by virtue of subsection (8)(b) or (8)(c) and the authorising officer believes that—
- (a) P is a person subject to service law in accordance with sections 367 to 369 of the Armed Forces Act 2006, and
 - (b) the premises fall within paragraph (a) of the definition of “service living accommodation” in section 96(1) of that Act.
- (11) The authorising officer must make reasonable efforts to inform P’s commanding officer (within the meaning of section 360 of the Armed Forces Act 2006) of the issuing of the notice.

25 Contents and service of a domestic violence protection notice

- (1) A DVPN must state—
- (a) the grounds on which it has been issued,
 - (b) that a constable may arrest P without warrant if the constable has reasonable grounds for believing that P is in breach of the DVPN,
 - (c) that an application for a domestic violence protection order under section 27 will be heard within 48 hours of the time of service of the DVPN and a notice of the hearing will be given to P,
 - (d) that the DVPN continues in effect until that application has been determined, and
 - (e) the provision that a magistrates’ court may include in a domestic violence protection order.
- (2) A DVPN must be in writing and must be served on P personally by a constable.
- (3) On serving P with a DVPN, the constable must ask P for an address for the purposes of being given the notice of the hearing of the application for the domestic violence protection order.

26 Breach of a domestic violence protection notice

- (1) A person arrested by virtue of section 25(1)(b) for a breach of a DVPN must be held in custody and brought before the magistrates’ court which will hear the application for the DVPO under section 27—

- (a) before the end of the period of 24 hours beginning with the time of the arrest,
or
 - (b) if earlier, at the hearing of that application.
- (2) If the person is brought before the court by virtue of subsection (1)(a), the court may remand the person.
- (3) If the court adjourns the hearing of the application by virtue of section 27(8), the court may remand the person.
- (4) In calculating when the period of 24 hours mentioned in subsection (1)(a) ends, Christmas Day, Good Friday, any Sunday and any day which is a bank holiday in England and Wales under the Banking and Financial Dealings Act 1971 are to be disregarded.

27 Application for a domestic violence protection order

- (1) If a DVPN has been issued, a constable must apply for a domestic violence protection order (“a DVPO”).
- (2) The application must be made by complaint to a magistrates’ court.
- (3) The application must be heard by the magistrates’ court not later than 48 hours after the DVPN was served pursuant to section 25(2).
- (4) In calculating when the period of 48 hours mentioned in subsection (3) ends, Christmas Day, Good Friday, any Sunday and any day which is a bank holiday in England and Wales under the Banking and Financial Dealings Act 1971 are to be disregarded.
- (5) A notice of the hearing of the application must be given to P.
- (6) The notice is deemed given if it has been left at the address given by P under section 25(3).
- (7) But if the notice has not been given because no address was given by P under section 25(3), the court may hear the application for the DVPO if the court is satisfied that the constable applying for the DVPO has made reasonable efforts to give P the notice.
- (8) The magistrates’ court may adjourn the hearing of the application.
- (9) If the court adjourns the hearing, the DVPN continues in effect until the application has been determined.
- (10) On the hearing of an application for a DVPO, section 97 of the Magistrates’ Courts Act 1980 (summons to witness and warrant for his arrest) does not apply in relation to a person for whose protection the DVPO would be made, except where the person has given oral or written evidence at the hearing.

28 Conditions for and contents of a domestic violence protection order

- (1) The court may make a DVPO if two conditions are met.
- (2) The first condition is that the court is satisfied on the balance of probabilities that P has been violent towards, or has threatened violence towards, an associated person.

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- (3) The second condition is that the court thinks that making the DVPO is necessary to protect that person from violence or a threat of violence by P.
- (4) Before making a DVPO, the court must, in particular, consider—
 - (a) the welfare of any person under the age of 18 whose interests the court considers relevant to the making of the DVPO (whether or not that person is an associated person), and
 - (b) any opinion of which the court is made aware—
 - (i) of the person for whose protection the DVPO would be made, and
 - (ii) in the case of provision included by virtue of subsection (8), of any other associated person who lives in the premises to which the provision would relate.
- (5) But the court may make a DVPO in circumstances where the person for whose protection it is made does not consent to the making of the DVPO.
- (6) A DVPO must contain provision to prohibit P from molesting the person for whose protection it is made.
- (7) Provision required to be included by virtue of subsection (6) may be expressed so as to refer to molestation in general, to particular acts of molestation, or to both.
- (8) If P lives in premises which are also lived in by a person for whose protection the DVPO is made, the DVPO may also contain provision—
 - (a) to prohibit P from evicting or excluding from the premises the person for whose protection the DVPO is made,
 - (b) to prohibit P from entering the premises,
 - (c) to require P to leave the premises, or
 - (d) to prohibit P from coming within such distance of the premises as may be specified in the DVPO.
- (9) A DVPO must state that a constable may arrest P without warrant if the constable has reasonable grounds for believing that P is in breach of the DVPO.
- (10) A DVPO may be in force for—
 - (a) no fewer than 14 days beginning with the day on which it is made, and
 - (b) no more than 28 days beginning with that day.
- (11) A DVPO must state the period for which it is to be in force.

29 Breach of a domestic violence protection order

- (1) A person arrested by virtue of section 28(9) for a breach of a DVPO must be held in custody and brought before a magistrates' court within the period of 24 hours beginning with the time of the arrest.
- (2) If the matter is not disposed of when the person is brought before the court, the court may remand the person.
- (3) In calculating when the period of 24 hours mentioned in subsection (1) ends, Christmas Day, Good Friday, any Sunday and any day which is a bank holiday in England and Wales under the Banking and Financial Dealings Act 1971 are to be disregarded.

30 Further provision about remand

- (1) This section applies for the purposes of the remand of a person by a magistrates' court under section 26(2) or (3) or 29(2).
- (2) In the application of section 128(6) of the Magistrates' Courts Act 1980 for those purposes, the reference to the "other party" is to be read—
 - (a) in the case of a remand prior to the hearing of an application for a DVPO, as a reference to the authorising officer,
 - (b) in any other case, as a reference to the constable who applied for the DVPO.
- (3) If the court has reason to suspect that a medical report will be required, the power to remand a person may be exercised for the purpose of enabling a medical examination to take place and a report to be made.
- (4) If the person is remanded in custody for that purpose, the adjournment may not be for more than 3 weeks at a time.
- (5) If the person is remanded on bail for that purpose, the adjournment may not be for more than 4 weeks at a time.
- (6) If the court has reason to suspect that the person is suffering from a mental disorder within the meaning of the Mental Health Act 1983, the court has the same power to make an order under section 35 of that Act (remand to hospital for medical report) as it has under that section in the case of an accused person (within the meaning of that section).
- (7) The court may, when remanding the person on bail, require the person to comply, before release on bail or later, with such requirements as appear to the court to be necessary to secure that the person does not interfere with witnesses or otherwise obstruct the course of justice.

31 Guidance

- (1) The Secretary of State may from time to time issue guidance relating to the exercise by a constable of functions under sections 24 to 30.
- (2) A constable must have regard to any guidance issued under subsection (1) when exercising a function to which the guidance relates.
- (3) Before issuing guidance under this section, the Secretary of State must consult—
 - (a) the Association of Chief Police Officers,
 - (b) the National Policing Improvement Agency, and
 - (c) such other persons as the Secretary of State thinks fit.

32 Ministry of Defence Police

- (1) A member of the Ministry of Defence Police not below the rank of superintendent may issue a DVPN under section 24 for the protection of an associated person if either P or the associated person lives in premises which fall within paragraph (a) of the definition of "service living accommodation" in section 96(1) of the Armed Forces Act 2006.
- (2) If a DVPN is issued by a member of the Ministry of Defence Police by virtue of subsection (1), provision may be included in the DVPN by virtue of section 24(8) in

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relation to any other premises in England or Wales lived in by P and the associated person.

33 Pilot schemes

- (1) The Secretary of State may by order made by statutory instrument provide for any provision of sections 24 to 32 to come into force for a period of time to be specified in or under the order for the purpose of assessing the effectiveness of the provision.
- (2) Such an order may make different provision for different areas.
- (3) More than one order may be made under this section.
- (4) Provision included in an order under this section does not affect the provision that may be included in relation to sections 24 to 32 in an order under section 59 (commencement).