



2021 CHAPTER 2

PART 1

Domestic abuse: offence and aggravation

CHAPTER 1

Offence of domestic abuse

Course of abusive behaviour

The domestic abuse offence

- 1.—(1) A person (“A”) commits an offence if—
 - (a) A engages in a course of behaviour that is abusive of another person (“B”),
 - (b) A and B are personally connected to each other at the time, and
 - (c) both of the further conditions are met.
- (2) The further conditions are—
 - (a) that a reasonable person would consider the course of behaviour to be likely to cause B to suffer physical or psychological harm, and
 - (b) that A—
 - (i) intends the course of behaviour to cause B to suffer physical or psychological harm, or
 - (ii) is reckless as to whether the course of behaviour causes B to suffer physical or psychological harm.
- (3) The references in this section to psychological harm include fear, alarm and distress.

Changes to legislation: *There are currently no known outstanding effects for the Domestic Abuse and Civil Proceedings Act (Northern Ireland) 2021, Section 1. (See end of Document for details)*

(4) The offence under this section is to be known as the domestic abuse offence.

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Commencement Information

II S. 1 in operation at 21.2.2022 by [S.R. 2022/57](#), **art. 2(a)**

Changes to legislation:

There are currently no known outstanding effects for the Domestic Abuse and Civil Proceedings Act (Northern Ireland) 2021, Section 1.