



# Domestic Abuse Act 2021

## 2021 CHAPTER 17

### PART 5

#### PROTECTION FOR VICTIMS, WITNESSES, ETC IN LEGAL PROCEEDINGS

##### *Special measures*

#### **62 Special measures in criminal proceedings for offences involving domestic abuse**

- (1) Chapter 1 of Part 2 of the Youth Justice and Criminal Evidence Act 1999 (giving of evidence or information for purposes of criminal proceedings: special measures directions in case of vulnerable and intimidated witnesses) is amended as follows.
- (2) In section 17 (witnesses eligible for assistance on grounds of fear or distress about testifying)—
  - (a) in subsection (4), for “a sexual offence or an offence under section 1 or 2 of the Modern Slavery Act 2015” substitute “an offence listed in subsection (4A)”;
  - (b) after subsection (4) insert—

“(4A) The offences are—

    - (a) a sexual offence;
    - (b) an offence under section 1 or 2 of the Modern Slavery Act 2015;
    - (c) any other offence where it is alleged that the behaviour of the accused amounted to domestic abuse within the meaning of the Domestic Abuse Act 2021 (see section 1 of that Act).”
- (3) In section 25(4)(a) (evidence given in private), for “a sexual offence or an offence under section 1 or 2 of the Modern Slavery Act 2015” substitute “an offence listed in section 17(4A)”.