

The Domestic Violence Act

The Aim of the Domestic Violence Act:

"To reduce and prevent violence in domestic relationships"

The Act aims to achieve this by:

- recognising that domestic violence, in all its forms, is unacceptable behaviour;
- ensuring that, where domestic violence occurs, there is effective legal protection for its victims.

Domestic Violence Defined:

In this Act, domestic violence, in relation to any person, means: Violence against that person by any other person whom that person is, or has been in a domestic relationship violence is defined as:

- physical abuse
- sexual abuse
- psychological abuse including but not limited to:
 - intimidation
 - harassment
 - damage to Property
 - threats of physical abuse, sexual abuse, or psychological abuse
- In relation to a child: allowing the child to see or hear physical, sexual, or psychological abuse of the person with whom the child has a domestic relationship, OR puts the child, or allows the child to be put, at real risk of seeing or hearing abuse occurring.

The person who suffers the abuse is not regarded as having caused or allowed the child to see or hear the abuse, or as the case may be, having put the child at risk of seeing or hearing the abuse

A Domestic Relationship is defined as:

For the purposes of the act a person is defined as being in a domestic relationship if the person:

- is the partner of the other person
- is a family member of the other person
- ordinarily shares a house with the other person
- has a close personal relationship with the other person

With regard to this the Court may define what determines a close personal relationship.

A domestic relationship is not:

- a landlord-tenant relationship
- an employer-employee relationship
- an employee-employee relationship

To view the entire Act, visit www.legislation.govt.nz