

What will happen if I call the police?

Normally, two police officers will go to the location you specify. The people involved will be questioned separately about the situation. The police usually do not question the person who called them. The police then determine what subsequent action is necessary to protect the person affected by the violence. They have the following options:¹

- Arranging for medical services in the event of an injury.
- Issuing a barring order (*Wegweisung und Fernhalten*): The police can order the person who has engaged in violence to vacate the shared home and bar them from returning. The barring order will remain in force for a maximum of 20 days.

The police can order the perpetrator to refrain from coming within a certain distance of the home, workplace or school of the persons affected by the violence (victim(s), children) or from contacting them in any way.

The perpetrator does not comply with this order, they will be liable to prosecution.

The person affected by the violence can request a court to extend the duration of the protective measures. Victim support services can provide information on how to proceed.

- Detention: The police can place the person who has engaged in violence in detention for up to 24 hours. For example, if this person resists the order to vacate the home or if they pose an acute danger to another person.
- Shelter: The police can bring the person affected by the violence, with or without children, to a shelter.

What will happen if I call an advice service?

- If you choose, you can describe the situation while remaining anonymous.
- Advice service staff are bound by a duty of confidentiality. This means that they are not allowed to reveal information about your conversation to anyone.
- After your telephone calls, no further steps will be taken unless you want them to be.
- If necessary, the advice services can refer you to another advice service.

¹ «Information über Häusliche Gewalt, Unterstützung und Massnahmen» (Information on domestic violence, support and measures) BIG, 2021