

Domestic Abuse Response

Criminal Justice

The main system responses, and how well each is actually supported.

Findings here are contested and strongly context-dependent.

Response	Intent	Evidence
Mandatory arrest	Consistent action	Mixed, some harmful effects
Protective orders	Reduce contact	Modest, breach is common
Risk assessment tools	Prioritise cases	Weak predictive accuracy
Specialist courts	Better process	Process gains, offending unclear
Perpetrator programmes	Change behaviour	Small effects, varied quality
Advocacy support	Safety planning	Better safety and engagement

Educational reference. Mandatory arrest findings vary sharply between studies and populations; this is contested ground.