

THE DOMESTIC VIOLENCE ACT (2010) PROVIDES FOR COMPLAINTS OF A DOMESTIC NATURE TO BE REPORTED TO:

THE LOCAL COUNCIL COURTS

- Records statements
- Hears cases and settle them
- Refers cases to other duty bearers, like Police, CDO, health facility, NGO
- May make Orders like caution apology counselling, compensation.
- Do not handle capital offences like defilement, rape and murder. such cases must be reported to the police.



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PROBATION AND SOCIAL WELFARE OFFICER

- Has a duty to take all necessary action regarding the best interests of a child in accordance with provisions of the Childrens' Act
- Plays a mediatory role in supporting families/children facing domestic violence
- Supposed to attend Court in matters regarding children/ juveniles



THE POLICE

- Records statements
- Investigates cases
- Assists and advises
- Collects evidence
- Takes steps to protect a survivor from any further harm

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THE HEALTH WORKER

- Offers medical assistance
- Documents medical examination and treatment
- May testify in court
- Should report all cases of violence to Police and other authorities



CHIEF MAGISTRATES COURT

- Hears and determines cases
- Issues a protection order
- Imposes penalties like fines or imprisonment
- Handles cases of domestic violence as a priority as stated in the Family and Children Court Rules

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WHAT TO DO OR KNOW ABOUT SEXUAL VIOLENCE

- Preserve all evidence when sexual violence has occurred; do not bathe or wash your clothes.
- A Clinical Officer, Registered Midwife or Medical Doctor can examine where sexual violence has occurred.
- A medical form (Police Form 3) must always be filled out by the health worker.