



If the victim confirms that the complaint is true but still wants to withdraw the PPS will consider whether it is possible to continue with the prosecution without the victim's evidence and whether the case should continue against the victim's wishes.

The safety of the victim, any child or any other potentially vulnerable person will be a prime consideration in deciding whether it is in the public interest to continue the case against the victim's wishes.

### What happens when a decision is taken to continue with a prosecution against the victim's wishes?

If the PPS decides that the prosecution should continue consideration is given as to whether it is necessary to require the victim to attend court to give evidence in person or whether to apply to the court to use the victim's statement as evidence without requiring his or her attendance at court.

A decision to require a victim to attend court against his or her wishes will only be taken by an experienced prosecutor after consultation with police, with the safety of the victim and any child or other vulnerable person being a prime consideration.

A victim's statement can be used as evidence in court without the need for his or her attendance at court but only in very limited circumstances and it is for the court to decide whether to allow such a statement to be used in this manner.

### What can a victim of Domestic Violence expect from the PPS?

The PPS will treat all victims of Domestic Violence and other witnesses with courtesy and respect. The PPS will make every effort to keep victims informed of the progress of their case, although this may not be possible in every instance. However, if a victim or witness contacts the PPS every effort will be made to address their query.

### What measures are available to help Victims and Witnesses?

In appropriate cases the PPS can apply for special measures to assist with giving evidence, for example by live TV link. The PPS also works closely with its partner agencies including the Northern Ireland Court Service and Victim Support NI to help provide support at court.

The PPS 'Policy for Prosecuting Cases of Domestic Violence' explains the above issues in more detail. Please contact the PPS if you would like a copy. Alternatively it is available on our website: [www.ppsni.gov.uk](http://www.ppsni.gov.uk)

## Getting in touch:

For further information about the PPS, please contact:

Departmental Records and Information Manager

#### Public Prosecution Service

Belfast Chambers  
93 Chichester Street  
BELFAST, BT1 3JR  
**Tel:** (028) 90 897100  
**E-mail:** [info@ppsni.gsi.gov.uk](mailto:info@ppsni.gsi.gov.uk)  
**Website:** [www.ppsni.gov.uk](http://www.ppsni.gov.uk)

### Regional Offices:

#### Belfast Region (Headquarters)

Belfast Chambers  
93 Chichester Street  
BELFAST, BT1 3JR  
**Tel:** (028) 90 897100

#### Eastern Region

Lisburn Chambers  
Linen Hill House  
23 Linenhall Street  
LISBURN, BT28 1FJ  
**Tel:** (028) 92 625555

#### Northern Region

Ballymena Chambers  
4 Parkway  
BALLYMENA, BT43 5ET  
**Tel:** (028) 25 666500

#### Foyle Chambers

35 Limavady Road  
LONDONDERRY  
Co Londonderry, BT47 6LP  
**Tel:** (028) 71 340600

#### Western and Southern Region

Omagh Chambers  
Main Street  
OMAGH, BT78 1BL  
**Tel:** (028) 82 248733

PUBLIC  
PROSECUTION  
SERVICE

Independent, Fair and Effective

## Prosecuting Cases of Domestic Violence



