**Chapter 33: Domestic Abuse**

* The legislation was reintroduced in March 2020 as the Domestic Abuse Bill 2019-21, and received royal assent on 29 April 2021.
* *M v D* [2021] EWHC 1351 (Fam), [2021] All ER (D) 86 (May). Recent case law dealt with a relationship where the respondent was the stepson of the appellant’s sister (i.e., the appellant’s step-nephew).

**Introduction 33.1**

In spring 2018, the Government conducted a public consultation on Transforming the Response to Domestic Abuse. The response to the consultation and the draft Domestic Abuse Bill were published in January 2019. The legislation was reintroduced in March 2020 as the Domestic Abuse Bill 2019-21, and received royal assent on 29 April 2021.

33.4.2.2 Relative

Relatives are defined by s63 FLA 1996 to include the following:

* father; mother; stepfather; stepmother; son; daughter; stepson; stepdaughter; grandmother; grandfather; grandson; granddaughter of a person, or of that person’s spouse or former spouse or civil partner or former civil partner; or
* brother; sister; uncle; aunt; niece; nephew; first cousin (whether of the first blood or of the half blood or by affinity) of a person, or of that person’s spouse or former spouse, civil partner or former civil partner.

The above applies also to people who are cohabiting or were cohabiting and will include same-sex couples. Clearly, the definition of a relative is extremely wide. However, recent case law dealt with a relationship where the respondent was the stepson of the appellant’s sister (i.e., the appellant’s step-nephew). In *M v D* [2021] EWHC 1351 (Fam), [2021] All ER (D) 86 (May), the appellant appealed against a refusal to make a non-molestation order. The district judge found that the relationship between the appellant and the respondent did not fall within the jurisdiction of FLA 1996. That finding was upheld on appeal.