



An tSéirbhís Chúirteanna
Courts Service
IRELAND

Information about court orders if you are the victim of domestic violence

Domestic violence is violence or other abuse by one person against another, including children. It may be physical, sexual or psychological violence.

Where to get support if you are a victim of domestic violence

If you are in immediate danger of being abused contact 999/112

You might decide to get advice from a domestic abuse support group such as

Women's Aid <https://www.womensaid.ie/>

AMEN <http://www.amen.ie/>

SONAS <http://www.domesticabuse.ie/>

A list of supports in your area are available on

<http://www.cosc.ie/>

<https://www.safeireland.ie/>

You can find details of your local Garda Station here

<https://www.garda.ie/en/Contact-Us/Station-Directory/>

You might be entitled to free legal aid

<https://www.legalaidboard.ie/en/>

The information provided here is not legal advice. It is just a guide to help you understand your options.

Asking the court to make an order

If **you** are making an application to court. You are the **applicant**.

If you are asking for an order **against** another person. They are the **respondent**.

If you do not have children you can still apply for a court order.

What do the different court orders mean

The information below outlines the types of orders the court can make. The table on the next page outlines who can apply for each order.

1. A barring order

This order prohibits the respondent from being violent or threatening to be violent to you and your children. This order means that the respondent must leave the place where you live together for a certain length of time. The end date of the order is usually stated by the court.

2. A safety order

This order prohibits the respondent from being violent or threatening to be violent to you and your children. This order can also stop the respondent coming to the place where you live if you do not live together. It can also stop the respondent from following you or communicating with you (including by electronic means). The end date of the order is usually stated by the court.

Urgent temporary orders

If you need protection immediately you should apply for an urgent temporary order. You do not have to tell the respondent that you are making this application. This is called an “ex-parte” application.

You will have to attend a court hearing. The court may issue an order at that hearing. The respondent will receive a copy of the court order and the information sworn by the applicant.

Temporary barring orders are called either

- a. An interim barring order. It remains in place for 8 working days until the court hears the full application for the barring order.
- b. An emergency barring order. It remains in place for 8 working days.

A protection order is a temporary safety order that the court can put in place until the full hearing for a barring order or safety order has been finished.

If the respondent breaks the court order they may be arrested and brought before the criminal courts.

If the respondent breaks the court order you should immediately contact the Gardaí.

Apply for an order

There are different groups of people who can apply for an order. Each of those groups can apply for different categories of orders.

It is important that you are clear about your relationship with the respondent so that you ask the court for the correct order.

You should let the court/court office know if you have any other current family law proceedings in place.

The table below shows the orders different people are allowed to apply for

Relationship to respondent	Barring	Safety	Protection	Interim Barring	Emergency barring
Wife Husband Civil partner Former wife Former husband	Y	Y	Y	Y	N
A person who lived with the respondent in an intimate relationship before making the application	Y Applicant must have same or greater beneficial interest in the property	Y	Y	Y Applicant must have same or greater beneficial interest in the property	Y Applicant does not have same or greater beneficial interest in the property
A person who was in an intimate relationship with the respondent but did not live with them before making the application	N	Y	Y	N	N
Parent of the respondent. Respondent has to be of full age and not a dependant	Y Applicant must have same or greater beneficial interest in the property	Y	Y	Y Applicant must have same or greater beneficial interest in the property	Y Applicant does not have same or greater beneficial interest in the property
Parent of a child whose other parent is the respondent.	N	Y	Y	N	N
A person of full age who lives with the respondent. The relationship cannot be a contractual one such as landlord/tenant	N	Y	Y	N	N

What forms do I need

The forms needed to apply for an order under the Domestic Violence Act, 2018 are available on courts.ie

Court rules set out the process and information needed.
The Court rules also have the forms needed to apply.

District Court [[link](#)]
Circuit Court [[link](#)]

The Domestic Violence Act, 2018 is available on
<http://www.irishstatutebook.ie/eli/2018/act/6/enacted/en/html>

Where do you apply for an order

You can get help from a domestic violence support group.

You can go to the court office for the area where you live.

You can go to the court office for the area where you would live if the behaviour of the respondent did not require you to apply for a court order.

www.courts.ie Click on Offices and Maps. The click on Office by County.