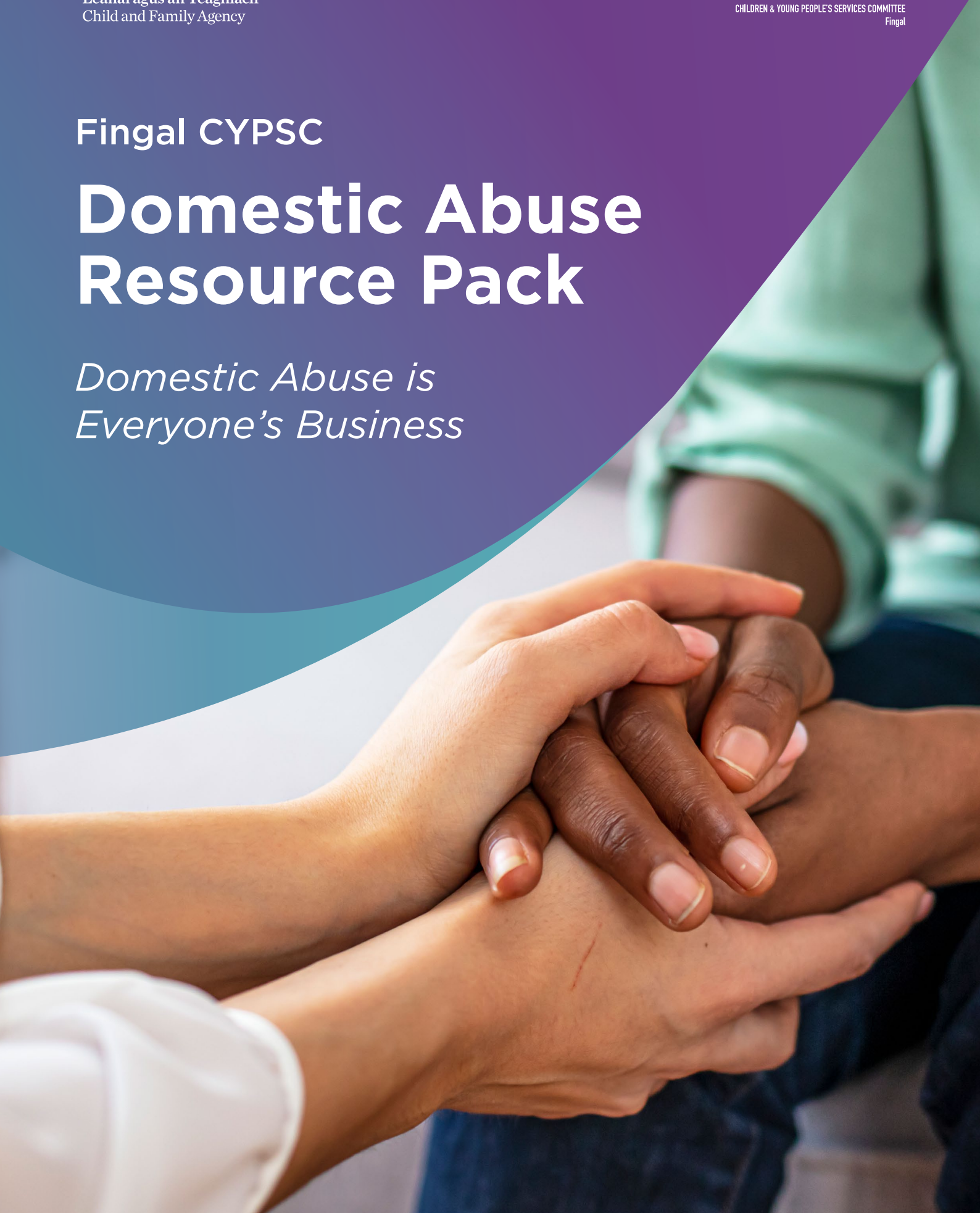




Fingal CYPSC

# Domestic Abuse Resource Pack

*Domestic Abuse is  
Everyone's Business*



# Acknowledgements

**This Domestic Abuse Resource Pack is the product of multiple interagency partners working together to highlight awareness of domestic violence.**

In the first instance, Fingal CYPSC wishes to thank and acknowledge the Roscommon CYPSC and services whose original work on the **County Roscommon Domestic Abuse Resource Pack** provides the template for this document.

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# 1. Introduction to the Fingal Domestic Abuse Resource Pack

**Domestic Abuse is an issue affecting thousands of people each year in Ireland. While undefined in Irish legislation, Domestic Abuse is understood to refer to: a pattern of physical, sexual, financial, emotional or psychological abuse of one person against another who is a family member or is or has been an intimate partner, regardless of gender or sexuality.**

*(An Garda Síochána (2017). Domestic Abuse Intervention Policy. Pg 3)*

The full extent of domestic abuse is largely unknown, due to under reporting. However, national available statistics demonstrate that the problem is serious, pervasive and complex. An Garda Síochána responded to over 65,000 domestic abuse incidents in 2024, which translates to an average of 1,250 incidents every week. *(An Garda Síochána, 2025).*

Professionals and practitioners across sectors play a pivotal role in recognising and responding to domestic abuse. Victims are more likely to report abuse to a frontline or healthcare practitioner than to a domestic abuse service, because victims may not recognise that they are in an abusive relationship. *(Safe Ireland (2020). Information for Professionals)*

Within this context, CYPSC interagency partners have collaborated to adapt this resource pack - to highlight awareness of domestic abuse; to support frontline services to recognise, respond and refer; and to ensure that a clear pathway for support is identified where necessary.

Fingal is home to multiple levels of supports through statutory, community and voluntary services that offer advice, information, intervention and safe spaces to women and men, children, perpetrators and victims. This document is designed to act as a resource for professionals to support those in our area who are experiencing domestic abuse in any of its forms.

**Source:**  
An Garda Síochána (2017). Domestic Abuse Intervention Policy. Pg 3) An Garda Síochána, 2025 Safe Ireland (2020). Information for Professionals

# 2. Domestic Violence Statistics

## 35% of women

in Ireland, more than one in three, have now experienced psychological, physical and/or sexual abuse from an intimate partner.

*(EU gender-based violence survey, Fundamental Rights Agency, 2024)*

## At least 1 in 7 men

in Ireland will experience domestic violence during their lifetime, including coercive control, the challenge remains that only 5% of men report the abuse and/or violence to An Garda Síochána.

*(Men's Aid)*

## One in four women

women in Ireland experienced sexual violence as an adult with a partner.

*(CSO Sexual Violence Survey, 2023)*

## Over the three years of our previous strategy (2022-2024)

Women's Aid frontline services responded to 91,677 contacts and heard 105,581 disclosures of abuse of women and children subjected to domestic violence. This figure represents only the tip of the iceberg of what is happening to women and children in Ireland at the hands of an abuser. *(Women's Aid Annual Impact Reports, 2022-2024)*



An Garda Síochána responded to over 178,500 domestic abuse incidents between 2022-2024, which translates to an average of 1,144 incidents every week.

<https://www.irishexaminer.com/news/arid-41561812.html>

**Source:**  
EU gender-base violence survey, Fundamental Rights Agency, 2024  
Men's Aid  
CSO Sexual Violence Survey, 2023



275 women have died violently between 1996 and present day, 87% of women (where the case has been resolved) were killed by a man known to them, and 20 children died during incidents where women have died violently. *(Women's Aid Femicide Watch April 2025)*

<https://www.irishexaminer.com/news/arid-41561812.html>  
Women's Aid Femicide Watch April 2025  
Tusla, 2015



In more than 40% of cases, children who live with domestic violence abuse are also frequently directly abused, physically or sexually

*(Tusla, 2015)*



### 3. What is Domestic Abuse

**There are various terms that are used to describe abuse perpetrated by one person onto another (or others). Domestic Abuse is an overarching and encompassing term to describe a pattern of physical, sexual, financial, emotional or psychological abuse of one person against another who is a family member or is or has been an intimate partner, regardless of gender or sexuality.**

*(An Garda Síochána (2017). Domestic Abuse Intervention Policy. pg 3)*

As defined by the HSE and Tusla Child and Family Agency it can also involve emotional abuse such as the destruction of property, isolation from friends, family and other potential sources of support, threats to others including children; stalking, and control over access to money, personal items, food, transportation, the telephone, internet and social media. *(HSE (2010) Policy on Domestic, Sexual and Gender Based Violence)*

**Source:**

An Garda Síochána (2017). Domestic Abuse Intervention Policy. pg 3  
HSE (2010) Policy on Domestic, Sexual and Gender Based Violence  
Tusla - Gender based violence report  
Irish Statute Book (2019). Domestic Violence Act 2018. Sec 39



Gender Based Violence against Women is a further term used to describe “other violent behaviours perpetrated against women, because of the role expectations for women within the given society or culture”. These may include Female Genital Mutilation, forced marriages, honour-based violence, or forced abortion. *(Tusla - Gender based violence)*

Enacted in 2019, the Domestic Violence Act 2018 has provided for a new criminal offence of coercive control. Coercive Control is: a persistent pattern of controlling, coercive and threatening behaviour including all or some forms of domestic abuse (emotional, physical, financial, sexual including threats) by a boyfriend/girlfriend, partner, husband/wife or ex-partner.

This can result in fear of violence, or serious alarm or distress that has a substantial adverse impact on the victim’s usual day-to-day activities. *(Irish Statute Book (2019). Domestic Violence Act 2018. Sec 39)*

These definitions, and the legal framework surrounding domestic abuse and violence highlights the complexity of the issue, and the broad scope and nature of an issue affecting many in society today.

#### A Hidden Harm and a Cycle of Abuse

Domestic abuse or domestic violence can happen to anyone. It permeates across socio-economic status, age, sexuality, ethnicity, religion and gender. While women tend to experience higher rates of domestic violence than men, men are more likely to under-report. This under-reporting of domestic violence by both men and women compounds the experience to undermine self-confidence, self-worth and independence. It also has an impact to our lack of statistics on the number of children impacted by domestic violence.

**The impact of domestic abuse is felt by individuals and families with sometimes severe consequences for their emotional, financial, physical, and social wellbeing.**

Children living in abusive environments be impacted both directly and indirectly with an increased risk of emotional trauma and behavioural problems later in life. *(Tusla Child and Family Agency (2017). Child Protection and Welfare Handbook 2.pg 23)* The link between domestic violence and child physical abuse, estimated at between 30% to 66% (bid) is a further reason to ensure that children are recognised as victims in their own right.

**Source:**

Tusla Child and Family Agency (2017). Child Protection and Welfare Handbook 2.pg 23  
An Garda Síochána (2017). Domestic Abuse Intervention Policy (Sec 3.14)

The nature of domestic abuse dictates a cycle through which a victim may be subject to a range of abusive behaviours so the perpetrator can gain and ensure power and control over the other person.

**Domestic Abuse tends to follow three phases:**



**1. Tension-building phase**



**2. Abusive Incident**



**3. Reconciliation/ honeymoon phase**

Once abuse has begun, it not only continues, but over time tends to increase in both frequency and severity. As the abuse continues, the three-phase cycle begins to deteriorate. The tension-building phase becomes shorter and more intense, the incidents of abuse becomes more frequent and severe, and the reconciliation periods become shorter and less intense. This results in a victim becoming more vulnerable over time. *(An Garda Síochána (2017). Domestic Abuse Intervention Policy (Sec 3.14))*

## 4. Types of Domestic Abuse

[www.safeireland.ie](http://www.safeireland.ie)

### Coercive control is a crime. It is the very heart of domestic abuse. It does not have to be physical to be abuse.

Domestic abuse and coercive control is a persistent and deliberate pattern of behaviour by an abuser over a prolonged period of time designed to achieve obedience and create fear.

It may include coercion, threats, stalking, intimidation, isolation, degradation and control. It may also include physical and/or sexual violence.

#### Making her world smaller

Domestic abuse and coercive control are all about making a woman's world smaller – trapping her, restricting her independence and freedom. A controlling partner may shut out her friends and family, control her movements, micro-manage what she eats or wears, restrict her access to money – all the time chipping away at her confidence and destroying her self-respect.

**It is not her imagination.  
It is not her fault.  
It is not acceptable.**

### Types of abuse

The list below will help you recognise the signs of an abusive relationship. Not all methods of abuse are listed here though. Some are hard to define. But, if you are nervous, frightened or anxious around your partner, then the relationship may not be equal. If something does not feel right, then it probably isn't. You are the best judge of your own situation, trust your instinct.



### Physical abuse

- Punching or slapping
- Using weapons, such as knives or hammers
- Using household items as weapons, such as throwing a phone
- Biting
- Pinching
- Kicking
- Pulling hair
- Pushing or shoving
- Burning
- Strangling or choking
- Raping
- Choking

### Sexual abuse

- Rape
- Using force, threats, or intimidation to force a person to perform sexual acts
- Making a person feel guilty for not having sex
- Any degrading treatment based on a person's sexual orientation
- Withholding contraception or controlling a person's access to it
- Making a person watch pornography or forcing a person to participate in the making of it
- Sharing, or threatening to share, intimate images online or with friends, family or colleagues

### Emotional or psychological abuse

- Constantly putting a person down and calling names in private and/or in front of others
- Not listening or responding when a person is talking
- Restricting where someone can travel to or who a person can see.
- Monitoring the petrol or diesel a person has used in their car or the distance a person has travelled
- Not allowing friends or family to the house or stopping a person from spending time with them
- Telling family and friends lies about a person
- Sulking or not speaking to someone when they do something they don't approve of
- Lying or withholding information
- Being jealous of other relationships with family, friends or colleagues
- Having other relationships
- Breaking promises and shared agreements
- Threatening to harm themselves
- Stalking
- Monitoring a person's whereabouts by following the person or using tracking devices on a person's phone
- Monitoring online activity or opening a person's post and emails
- Making threats to hurt a person, their children or others a person cares about including pets
- Destroying or threatening to destroy a person's property, belongings or car.

Financial abuse

- Controlling all household money and asking to account for money spent, including showing receipts
- Denying a person access to their bank account or shared bank accounts
- Sabotaging a person’s work or preventing a person from attending work (example: hiding car keys)
- Withholding money for food, household or personal items
- Not paying bills, rent or the mortgage and allowing arrears to build up
- Not paying child maintenance as agreed or at all
- Running up bills in the person’s name (creation of debt)
- Maxing out the persons line of credit

Technology-facilitated abuse

- Using technology to track a person’s whereabouts
- Using tracking devices to monitor a person’s locations and activities
- Sending excessive amounts of voice calls, emails and texts
- Denying access to technology to isolate a person
- Sending abusive messages online to threaten a person and/or their family
- Sharing intimate and private pictures or messages online
- Harassment by sending insulting or threatening texts or messages
- Making fake profiles to harass a person
- Monitoring a person’s online activity, examples include who comments or likes a person’s posts
- Checking a person’s search history.
- Demanding the person give them their passwords to their online accounts



5. Impacts of Domestic Abuse

**Domestic abuse can impact everybody - Men, Women, Children, Young people, people with additional needs, people in the LGBTQ plus community.**

Impacts of Domestic abuse are outlined but not limited to the below:

**Adults**

Panic attacks  
Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder  
Anxiety  
Suicidal ideation/attempted suicide  
Exhaustion  
Low self-esteem/self-doubt  
Social isolation  
Loss of employment/homelessness/  
poverty  
Substance abuse  
Physical injury

**Pregnant Women**

Reproductive health issues – i.e.  
Unwanted pregnancy/miscarriage/  
contraceptive issues  
Effect on mother/child bond

**Children**

Bed wetting/nightmares/flashbacks  
Stress-related illness (skin conditions  
etc)  
Eating difficulties  
Attachment issues  
School refusal  
Low self-esteem  
Anxiety  
Isolation amongst peers  
Self-harm  
Suicide  
Anger issues

**Family/ Relationships**

Resentment  
Homelessness  
Isolation  
Intergenerational cycle  
Mental health issues  
Scapegoating  
Perpetrator may have negative  
impact on relationship with victim &  
children  
Perpetrator may have negative  
impact on professionals/community  
Helplessness  
Fear



## 6. Recognising Abuse in an Interpersonal Relationship

**Everyone has arguments, and everyone disagrees with their partners, family members and others close to them, from time to time. Where this begins to form a consistent pattern and someone feels afraid of a partner or someone close to them, then this may be a sign of domestic abuse. Recognising the warning signs can help:**



Source  
Spunout (Updated 2018).  
<https://spunout.ie/sex-relationships/relationships/toxic-relationships>

Spunout (Updated 2018).  
<https://spunout.ie/life/abuse/am-i-an-abusive-person>

### Warning Signs That Indicate a Potential Abusive Situation

- A person who has a sense of entitlement that their needs are more important than everyone else's
- A person who needs to have power and control in the relationship
- A person who blames their partner for any issues that occur in the relationship
- A person who doesn't take any responsibility
- A person who cannot be challenged
- A person who is disrespectful in general
- A person who lacks empathy
- A person who is unavailable when their partner needs support

### Am I in a Toxic Relationship?

- They constantly put you down and make you feel bad about yourself
- You are arguing one day, and things are great the next
- They often make you feel guilty
- They are jealous of your other friends
- You feel like it's your responsibility to fix things
- You change yourself to please them
- You worry about setting them off and feel like you have to watch what you say
- You feel anxious or unwell when you know you're going to see them
- They text and call you constantly
- You have lost confidence in yourself
- They break your trust

### What can I do?

- Remember you are not to blame.
- Contact a support service.
- Reach out to a trusted friend, relative or neighbour. They can help support you in a time of need.
- Make a safety plan - to keep you and others safe in an emergency.
- Talk to your GP
- Report the abuse to a Garda Station.
- Obtain a Domestic Violence Court Order

### Am I an Abusive Person?

If a person is concerned about their own behaviour being abusive, here are some guidelines to think this through:

#### Behaviours

- Have I scared someone with my behaviour?
- Have I taken advantage of or exploited the trust of another person?
- Have I repeatedly bullied or belittled someone either in private or in front of others?
- Have I attempted to control the behaviours or social interactions of another person?
- Have I repeatedly monitored the behaviour or whereabouts of another person?
- Have I repeatedly broken promises to change my behaviour?

#### Thoughts

- Do I think that I cannot control my own behaviour?
- Do I deny or minimize the seriousness of my behaviour?
- Do I think that an individual disrespects me when they don't act the way that I want them to?

- Do I think other people or substances (drugs, alcohol, medication etc.) are to blame for my own behaviour?
- Do I think that hurting myself or others is the best/only course of action?
- Do I think that having personally experienced violence or abuse that I can do the same to others or that this excuses my behaviour?
- Do I have very strict views on how people should act or behave?

### Feelings

- Do I feel more relaxed or get a 'high' after I have been angry, abusive or violent?
- Do I feel unable to cope with unpleasant thoughts or feelings?
- Do I feel more in control after I have put someone down or physically hurt them?
- Do I feel disrespected when someone does not do what I ask?
- Do I feel excessively jealous when someone is speaking to or spending time with others?

### What can I do?

If you are worried about your behaviour, thoughts or feelings, seek help.

- The first step is admitting to yourself that you have been abusive towards your partner, family or friends
- Changing your behaviour will be a challenging process. Seek help from a counsellor to work through your feelings and learn how to change your behaviour. You cannot go through it alone.
- Know that it is never acceptable to be abusive towards another person. You must make the choice to end your behaviour.
- Remember that no one else is ever to blame for your own abusive behaviour.
- Understand the different types of abuse, such as physical, emotional, and sexual abuse.

## 7. What Happens after a Concern / Referral?

### An Garda Síochána:

If you are experiencing domestic abuse you may feel isolated and alone. You may not know who to trust or who you can confide in. It can be daunting contacting the Gardaí but if you are in danger we want you to call 999. When you call 999, a Garda in uniform will arrive at your location in a marked patrol car. They will ensure that you are not in immediate danger.

When you are safe, you will have the time to discuss with the Garda exactly why you called. If you are not in immediate danger and you require advice and assistance, you can visit your local Garda Station. There you will be met by a uniformed Garda. You can ask to speak with the Garda in private. They may sit down with you and ask you a number of questions. There are no right or wrong answers to these questions. An Garda Síochána just need to find out as much information as possible to ensure that you are safe and that you stay safe.

When Gardaí attend an incident of reported domestic abuse they will introduce themselves and speak to those involved separately and ascertain what occurred. They will get details of those involved and the relationship between them.

Where there is a domestic abuse order in place and that order has been breached, the Gardaí will arrest the perpetrator. Where there is no domestic abuse order in place and the Gardaí have grounds to suspect that an offence has been committed and they have a power of arrest, they will utilise that power of arrest.

Gardaí will investigate all offences that have occurred and will take a statement of complaint from the injured party.

They may seize any item that is considered evidence for their investigation. Gardaí will supply details of relevant support services and will follow up with the victim after the initial call.

### Tusla Social Worker:

Sometimes, when there are children and young people living in a home and there are concerns that Domestic Violence might be occurring, a referral is sent to the Tusla Duty Social Worker. The role of the Duty Social Worker is to ensure the safety and wellbeing of the child and young person living in the home.

A lot of parents have a fear that if social workers become involved, the only result is that their children will be taken into care. This only happens in severe situations when it is necessary to ensure the physical and emotional safety of children. If children are received into care, reunification takes place when it is safe to do so. Social workers will work together with a family to come up with the best plan or plans to keep the child and young person safe.

This will often involve family members or friends who can be contacted either by a parent or the children (if they are old enough) to talk about any worries they might have, and making arrangements for a place of safety if an incident happens. This will also involve working with the perpetrator to help them to identify what triggers the behaviour and what they can do to prevent them from engaging in abusive behaviours.

Social workers also provide families with support in accessing necessary services, including counselling, domestic violence support services and legal services.

## 8. How Can Professionals Help?

[www.safeireland.ie](http://www.safeireland.ie)

**All services and professionals/practitioners working with children and families need to be able to:**



**RECOGNISE**  
the signs of Domestic Abuse



**RESPOND**  
accordingly, and



**REFER**  
where necessary.

Remember that trusted professionals in a person's life may be the first person they reach out to. It is essential that we are able to respond in the best way as well as knowing local resources for referral. Professionals need to make themselves aware of their agencies policies and procedures regarding Domestic Abuse and avail of training.

Organisations can make their work environment a safe space for a victim of Domestic Abuse to talk about their experiences:

- Display posters, brochures and information on local, regional and national Domestic Abuse services;
- Put information into toilets so that victims can discreetly pick it up;
- Provide training to staff regarding Domestic Abuse service provision and training on how to respond to a disclosure of Domestic Abuse.



### Recognise Signs and Signals

- Person might be afraid of their partner;
- There may be talk about the persons temper, anger or possessiveness;
- There may be bruising or injury with the excuse of an accident;
- The victim may have history of alcohol use or substance misuse;
- They may be accompanied by the partner;
- Have erratic attendance at work, college appointments;
- Seem controlled and stopped from seeing family and friends;
- Keep in mind the impact on children who may also be living in the situation.



 **Respond**

Victims of Domestic Abuse may not disclose information about their experience unless directly asked. When a person discloses that he/she has experienced Domestic Abuse this indicates the trust and value placed in the professional/person for help and advice.

**Remember:**

- Confidence is key
- Listen and be supportive but not judgemental
- Assure the person that no-one deserves to be abused despite what the perpetrator says
- Remind the person that being violent is against the law
- Provide accurate local information on services available and how to access them
- Respect their decisions and let them know you are there to support them
- Document the conversation as part of your professional system
- The most dangerous time for a victim of Domestic Abuse is when he/she is just about to leave
- The victim is the best placed to assess their own risk
- Get consent from client to hold/pass on details



 **Refer**

**1. Aoibhneas Domestic Abuse Support for Women and Children:**

Telephone: Emergency number 1800 767 767

Offers refuge, outreach services, 24-hour helpline, court preparation and accompaniment.  
Website: [www.aoibhneas.ie](http://www.aoibhneas.ie)

**2. Sonas Domestic Violence Charity**

Telephone: Emergency number 1800 222 223

Offers refuge, Sonas Advice and Outreach, Crisis Intervention, Safe homes.  
Website: [www.domesticabuse.ie](http://www.domesticabuse.ie)

**3. Women's Aid**

Telephone: 1800 341 900

National helpline, outreach, court preparation and court accompaniment, Dolphin House Family Law Court Support and Referral Service

**4. Men Overcoming Violence (MOVE)**

Telephone: 085888440

Dublin, Meath, Tallaght and Swords

**More regional and national services can be found on:**

**Safe Ireland**  
[www.safeireland.ie](http://www.safeireland.ie)

**Tusla Child and Family Agency**  
[www.tusla.ie](http://www.tusla.ie)

**Always here**  
[www.alwayshere.ie](http://www.alwayshere.ie)



## 9. Online Resources and Safety Tools

### Bright Sky App



If you are concerned about domestic abuse, we know it can be hard to find support. That's why Bright Sky was developed.

Vodafone Ireland Foundation, working with Women's Aid and An Garda Síochána, have developed Bright Sky Ireland, a free, easy to use app that provides practical support and information on how to respond to domestic abuse. It is for anyone experiencing domestic abuse, or who is worried about someone else.

Bright Sky helps you to spot the signs of abuse, know how to respond, and help someone find a safe route to support.

The app can be downloaded for free via the app stores. Please only download the app if it is safe for you to do so and if you are sure that your phone isn't being monitored.

### Features

- The app locates specialist domestic abuse and sexual violence support services near you and supplies you with contact information
- Content to help you understand if you or someone else is at risk
- Links to further resources and information on topics around domestic abuse
- Information to help you to stay safe online

Please only download the Bright Sky app if it is safe to do so.

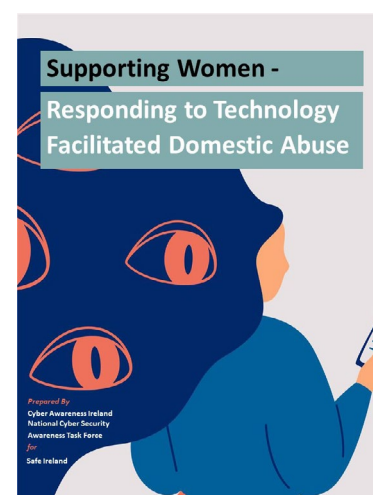
### Too into you



Too Into You is a source of information for young women run by Women's Aid. The website allows users to take a relationship health check quiz to discover the signs of dating

abuse, gives the reader a guide to safety orders in dating relationships and check out tips for keeping yourself and your friends safe. The website also features real-life stories, on how to protect yourself online and legal advice.

### Safe Irelands guide to responding to Technology-facilitated domestic abuse



Website: <https://www.safeireland.ie/wp-content/uploads/Supporting-Women-Responding-to-Technology-Facilitated-Domestic-Abuse.pdf>

### Serious Consequences – a campaign to raise awareness of intimate image abuse



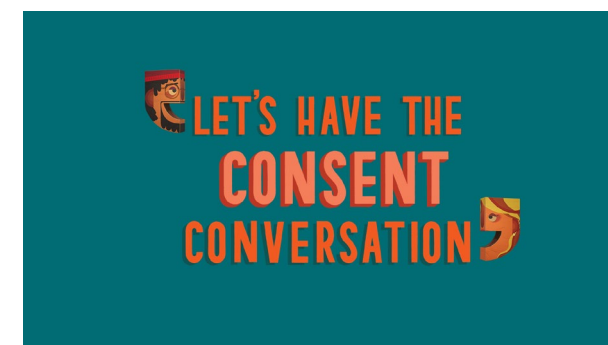
If an image of you has been posted online or shared in message groups without your consent, you can report it to [Hotline.ie](https://www.hotline.ie). Hotline works with all the major internet service providers in Ireland, as well as a network of international partners, and has been successfully getting illegal material online removed. Reports can be made to Hotline anonymously or by manually opting-in to make a non-anonymous report submission. [www.hotline.ie](https://www.hotline.ie)

Website: <https://www.gov.ie/en/department-of-justice-home-affairs-and-migration/policy-information/intimate-image-abuse/>

### 'Let's Have The Consent Conversation'



A major national awareness raising campaign on the topic of sexual consent was launched on November 23rd 2023. The aim of the campaign is to get people talking and thinking about consent, and to normalise it as a foundation for all sexual relationships.



### The Always Here campaign



The Always Here campaign is a successor to the Still Here campaign which tackled the serious issue of domestic violence in the context of the Covid pandemic.

This campaign expands to include sexual violence as well as domestic violence. It seeks to reassure victims that services are 'always here', and that victims are being prioritised, providing extensive information on the services available nationwide to victims and survivors of DSGBV.

The campaign was developed by the Department of Justice in collaboration with a number of frontline services including:

The National Observatory on Violence Against Women, Women's Aid, Safe Ireland, Dublin Rape Crisis Centre, Rape Crisis Network Ireland, Men's Development Network, Men's Aid Ireland

There was also significant input from: An Garda Síochána, Tusla, the Child and Family Agency, The Department of Education The Health Service Executive, Active\* Consent, University of Galway

For more information, please visit [www.alwayshere.ie](https://www.alwayshere.ie)

### Ask for Angela Campaign

Whether you're on a night out with friends, meeting someone from Tinder or Grindr for the first time, or on a date that just isn't working out, if you're uncomfortable and need some support, Ask for Angela can help.

You can go up to the bar or a member of staff and ask for 'Angela'. The code word lets bar staff know if you're feeling uncomfortable and need a way to get out of your situation.

The staff member will discreetly separate you from the person and talk to you to find the best way to deal with the situation. They may call you a taxi so you can get home safely, or remove the person from the bar or nightclub.



Participating venues will have the Ask for Angela poster in the toilets or elsewhere in the venue, explaining what to do and how they can help. Bar staff will also have information on how to respond when someone asks for Angela.

The initiative hasn't been fully rolled out across the country yet, but as more venues and County Councils catch on, you may begin seeing more Ask for Angela posters in the future.

Website: <https://spunout.ie/news/news-2/ask-for-angela-begins-rolling-out-across-ireland/>

### Spunouts 10 safety tips when meeting people from online apps



In the age of Tinder and Grindr etc, more and more people are using online apps to date. If you do decide to meet with someone from a dating app Spunout give you their top 10 tips to help ensure that you stay safe.

1. Ask for their social media
2. Ask for more pics
3. Agree on expectations before the date
4. Leave any valuables at home
5. Tell someone your plans
6. Meet wherever you're most comfortable
7. Avoid alcohol and drugs
8. Don't be afraid to say no
9. Have safe sex
10. Report anything that goes wrong

Website: <https://spunout.ie/voices/advice/staying-safe-meeting-dating-apps/>

## 10. National DSGBV Services and Supports

**Below is a listing of local Domestic, Sexual and Gender Based Violence (DSGBV) Services and Supports that are available within Fingal, as well as national supports.**

### Domestic Abuse Support Services

#### Women's Aid

**Immediate support call the Freephone Helpline 1800 341 900**

Website: [www.womensaid.ie](http://www.womensaid.ie)

Women's Aid National Freephone Helpline 1800 341 900

#### What is this service?

The Women's Aid 24-hour National Freephone Helpline is a free, non-judgmental and confidential service that offers support to women subjected to domestic abuse including coercive control and stalking. This includes emotional, physical, sexual or economic abuse by a current or former partner.

#### How to contact this service:

Call on 1800 341 900. This service is open 24 hours a day, seven days a week.

#### Who can use this service?

- Anyone over 18 years of age who feels they have experienced domestic abuse including coercive control and stalking.
- Anyone who is worried someone they know might be experiencing domestic abuse including coercive control and stalking.
- Professionals supporting someone who is being abused

#### What support can I get on the 24hr National Freephone hotline?

Support Workers are there to listen to you, to believe you and to support you. The National Freephone Helpline provides support in 240 languages. If English is not your first language, we can help you in your own language through our free and confidential telephone interpretation service.

#### How to use this service

- To get support in your own language, call the 24hr National Freephone Helpline on 1800 341 900 and:
- Tell us what language you speak
- Hold the line for a few short minutes while we source an interpreter
- Once the interpreter is connected, we will be able to support you in your own language
- The National Freephone also operates an Instant Messaging Support Service. The Instant Message Support Service is a free, confidential and secure way to talk to one of our Support Workers online.

You can access the Instant Messaging Support Service via the Women's Aid website, [www.womensaid.ie](http://www.womensaid.ie)

#### Opening Hours

**Monday to Friday:** 10am – 1pm and 7pm – 10pm  
**Saturday:** 12pm – 3pm and 7pm – 10pm  
**Sunday:** 11am – 1pm and 7pm – 10pm





## 2. Women's Aid One-to-One Support Service

The Women's Aid One-to-One Support Service provides in-depth information and support to women subjected to domestic violence and abuse. By appointment only.

### Where is this service?

Five locations in the Greater Dublin Area

Ballymun, Dublin City Centre – North and South sides, Dun Laoghaire, Swords

If you cannot attend any of these locations, we can arrange another safe location to meet. We cannot meet you in your home.

### When does it operate?

**Monday to Friday:** 9am – 5pm

### How can I access this service?

The One-to-One Support Service operates on an appointment only basis. Call us on the Women's Aid 24hr National Freephone Helpline 1800 341 900 to make a booking.



## D.A.I.S - Domestic Abuse Information & Support Service

Domestic Abuse Information & Support Service- A Drop-In Service in Dolphin House Family Law Court

### What is this service?

The D.A.I.S is a free and confidential drop-in information and support service in Dolphin House Family Law Court for women experiencing domestic abuse.

### Who runs the service?

The service is run by Women's Aid in partnership with Inchicore Outreach Service.

### Who can use the service?

The service is available for any woman who is subjected to domestic abuse and is attending Dolphin House Family Law Court for legal support.

### How can I access the service?

If you are attending Dolphin House Family Law Court, the D.A.I.S is located on the 4th Floor. Drop-in or ask the Court Clerk or Court Reception about us.

### Location

Women's Aid Domestic Abuse Information & support Service, (D.A.I.S.)  
Dolphin House Family Law Court,  
East Essex Street,  
Dublin 2. D02 RR76

### Opening Hours

**Monday to Friday:** 9.30am - 12.30pm and 2pm - 4.30pm

### Who will I speak to?

You will speak to a domestic violence support worker from Women's Aid or Inchicore Outreach Service. This service is confidential.

### What happens during a drop-in visit?

Their Support workers provide support and information about your situation and explain how the court works. This includes:

- Information on legal options
- Safety planning
- Linking you with a domestic violence service for ongoing support, if you wish

### How long can I use the service for?

This depends on your needs. We are available for drop-in visits Monday to Friday. If you require more ongoing support the service can refer to local domestic violence services in your community.



## Call free for Immediate Support 1800 767 767 (open 24-hr)

Email: [info@aoibhneas.ie](mailto:info@aoibhneas.ie)  
[outreach@aoibhneas.org](mailto:outreach@aoibhneas.org)  
[helpline@aoibhneas.org](mailto:helpline@aoibhneas.org)

Telephone: General Enquiries: 01 867 0805

Community & Outreach: 01 912 1670

### What is this service?

Aoibhneas Domestic Abuse Support for Women and Children provides a continuum of care for women and children affected by Domestic Abuse and Coercive Control. Working from Trauma-Informed Care, Empowerment model and Cultural Safety, Aoibhneas provides a range of services to ensure safety and work with survivors and freedom from domestic abuse.

### Refuge Accommodation

- Crisis accommodation for women and children fleeing abuse.
- Self-contained units ensure privacy, security, and stability.
- Refuge staff provide practical and emotional support, including safety planning, access to housing, welfare, medical care, and schooling.
- Staff work with women to build confidence, cope with trauma, and plan for the future, offering guidance and referrals to therapeutic services - support is offered through structured 1-2-1 and group engagements.
- A supportive community environment allows women to connect with peers, participate in programs, and access resources for independence and resilience.

- Children receive age-appropriate support and activities to help cope with abuse and promote wellbeing.

## 24-Hour Freephone Helpline

- Helpline: 1800 767 767
- Available 24/7 for women, family, friends, and professionals.
- Provides confidential support, advice, and guidance on safety and recovery.
- Outreach Support & Court Accompaniment
- Offers individualized, ongoing support for women and children during and after crisis situations.

## One-to-one support to address needs, overcome challenges, and recover from abuse

- Practical support: assistance with housing, welfare, medical services, and social services.
- Safety planning: strategies for women and children at home and in the community.
- Emotional support: guidance, counselling referrals, and trauma-informed care.
- Group programmes : Freedom Programme, Psychoeducational Programme, Family & Friends Programme.
- Drop-in clinics and coffee mornings: Provide informal opportunities for women to seek support, discuss issues, and connect with others in a safe environment.
- Empowerment & life skills: confidence building, financial independence, practical skills.
- Advocacy: liaison with legal, medical, and social services.
- Ongoing follow-up to ensure continuity of care.



### Court Support

- Pre-court: Explains court orders, the legal process, assists with DV timelines, and provides emotional support in preparation for court.
- Day-of court: Staff can attend court with women, offering emotional support and practical guidance throughout the hearing.
- Post-court: Reviews outcomes, ensures compliance with orders, and provides ongoing emotional support and guidance to help women plan for safety and recovery.

### Educational and Therapeutic Programs

- Aspire Programme: 12-week initiative for personal development, life skills, and accredited training.
- Individual counselling, trauma-informed support, and wellbeing workshops.

### Child and Youth Services

- Therapeutic and supportive programs for children and young people affected by domestic abuse.
- Focus on resilience, trauma understanding, and emotional support.
- Childcare – supporting families to access to and with immediate childcare needs
- Homework/afterschool support
- Breakfast club
- Developmental play, structured/unstructured play, free play.
- Play and art therapy – referral and access to.
- Group programmes

### Want to Talk?

A safe, accessible website created specifically for young people aged 12–18 who may be experiencing domestic abuse, whether within their family or in a dating relationship. We have worked in partnership with young people on the project where they have guided on what they want from the resource.

The platform is designed to provide information, guidance, and direct access to support in a way that's youth-friendly, confidential, and empowering.

We provide dedicated support to young people (12 to 18 years old) who are experiencing domestic abuse in their family or dating relationships through a specially designed website [www.wanttotalk.ie](http://www.wanttotalk.ie) that offers a safe space and live access to a support person as well as resources and information.

### Key features include:

- Clear, age-appropriate information about domestic abuse
- Live chat support available Monday–Friday, 3–7pm
- Built-in safety tools, including a quick exit button
- Practical tips and resources to help young people feel safe and supported
- Guidance on how and where to access help



### Sonas Refuge D15 and D4 24hour - 1800 22 22 23

Telephone: Sonas Advise,  
Outreach support – 1800 22 22 23  
Court accompaniment – 1800 22 22 23

### What is this service?

**Sonas Refuge** is a crisis accommodation service for women and children experiencing domestic abuse.

### How do I access this service?

You can call us 24 hours a day on 1800 22 22 23

### What can I expect from the service?

A member of our Support Team will meet with you on arrival to explain the service to you, show you to your accommodation and help you settle in. Sonas

### Safe Homes Sonas

Is emergency accommodation for women and children who have to leave home due to domestic abuse and need a safe place to explore their options.

Accommodation is in self-contained apartments or houses, with a fully equipped kitchen and living area. We have one-, two- and three-bedroom units. Sonas also provide children services for children and young people living with domestic violence. Sonas advise and Outreach support- An outreach worker from our Community Team will meet with you at an agreed safe location, wherever you feel safe and comfortable.

### Outreach workers may offer support with:

Personal safety and safety planning, access to social welfare where eligible, accessing medical and health services, court preparation and accompaniment, accessing local community and cultural services, emotional Support, Contacting the Gardai,

Improving the safety of access with children, Post separation abuse, Referrals to other services, Building self-confidence and independence, Discussing the effects of experiencing domestic abuse.

### Court Accompaniment

Sonas offers a Court Preparation and Accompaniment service for women experiencing or who have experienced domestic abuse. This service is primarily based in the Dublin court services, including Dolphin House (Dublin District Family Law Office), along with Dun Laoghaire, Balbriggan, and Swords District Courts.

The Court Support Workers can inform you of options and provide resources. They will support you based on your decisions and navigate you through the court hearing.

### Pre-court support

- Someone to talk to in confidence about the court process
- Information about victims' rights
- Information about court procedures
- Explore eligibility for Domestic Violence related orders
- Support in completing paperwork
- Help in dealing with other organisations relevant to the court system
- Explain the process of seeing the judge in order for a court order to be granted
- Support in applying for Legal Aid
- Accompaniment for the court hearing
- Emotional support, both before, during and after the court proceedings
- Help service users navigate their way through the court process

### Post-court support

- Clarify legal terminology and outcome of court process
- Identify safety measures following the outcome the court hearing

If you have any questions or you want further information, see our contact details below: Call us on 1800 22 22 23



### Safe Ireland

Safe Ireland website lists the 37 domestic abuse services located in towns right across Ireland. All Services in the Safe Ireland directory are free, confidential and available to all women.

Website: [www.safeireland.ie](http://www.safeireland.ie)



### CUAN

Cuan, is a statutory agency under the remit of the Department of Justice dedicated to tackling and reducing domestic, sexual and gender-based violence (DSGBV).

Website: <https://www.gov.ie/en/department-of-justice-home-affairs-and-migration/campaigns/cuan/>



### Dublin Safer Families

Dublin Safer Families Service is a Gender, Sexual and Domestic Abuse Service that work with parents and children to increase family safety in order to prevent and stop domestic abuse. One of the primary foci is to increase safety in the family for the children. The service works with the perpetrator to focus on their abusive actions and address their behaviour to improve safety in the family.

Dublin Safer Families Service focuses on the problem of violence and abuse from the perspectives of all participants, and it is holistic, multi-dimensional, multi-perspective and reflective. This systemic model explores risk, responsibility and works collaboratively with both clients and referrers. Referrals to this service are made directly by Social Work Department, Assessment Teams or Probation Services.

Website: [www.docchildandfamily.ie](http://www.docchildandfamily.ie)



## Sexual Violence Support Services



**Dublin Rape Crisis Centre**  
**National 24-Hour Helpline 1800 77 8888**  
[www.drcc.ie](http://www.drcc.ie)

Dublin Rape Crisis Centre is a national organisation offering a wide range of services to any person affected by rape, sexual assault, sexual harassment or childhood sexual abuse. Their service is primarily for adults, but a limited crisis counselling service is available to 16 to 18-year-olds with parental consent.

### These services include:

- the National 24-hour Helpline
- webchat support
- one-to-one counselling
- court accompaniment
- outreach services
- specialised training
- youth programmes & outreach
- awareness raising & campaigning
- policy & advocacy work

Their aim is to offer help and support to anyone who has experienced sexual violence of any kind. This may have been recently, some years ago or in childhood. We take calls from people of all ages, creeds, ethnic groups and orientations. Their counsellors will also speak with friends, relatives and concerned persons as well as take general queries. The Dublin Rape Crisis Centre, acknowledges it takes courage to phone or to call into the Centre for the first time and they assure you that if you contact the service you will be treated with dignity and respect.



**SATU Contact: 01 817 1736 or 01 817 1700 outside of office hours**

The Rotunda Sexual Assault Treatment Unit (SATU) aims to provide holistic, responsive and patient-focused care to people age 14 years and older who have experienced a sexual assault or rape. Staff are trained to understand and appreciate the dynamics and sensitivities involved in responding to sexual violence. Care is provided by skilled, competent professionals in a respectful, non-judgmental and supportive manner. They are an appointment led 24 hour service that offer several options of care.

### Types of care offered at SATU

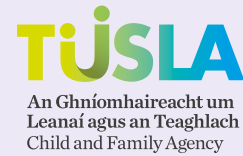
- Forensic clinical examination with Garda involvement
- Forensic clinical examination with option to report to Gardaí at later date
- Sexual health screening
- Administration of medications e.g. vaccinations and emergency contraception

The SATU network throughout Ireland look after all genders and gender identities over the age of 14. They provide all treatment in a non-judgemental manner and work closely with support workers from both the RCC and ASSC.

Website: <https://rotunda.ie/satu/>  
<https://www2.hse.ie/services/satu/where-to-get-help/>



## Child Protection and Welfare Concerns



### Tusla

North County Dublin 018708000  
Dublin North West 017786400

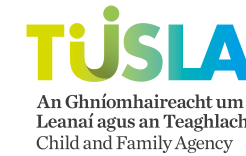
Website [www.tusla.ie](http://www.tusla.ie)

Social workers provide frontline services to children and families. Duty Social Workers deal mainly with urgent difficulties with children and young people, and child protection matters. If you need to report a concern about a child or need to discuss a concern, duty social workers can help.

Information on how to make a report or referral please go to <https://www.tusla.ie/services/child-protection-welfare/concerns/>

Reporting a concern about a potential risk to children posed by a specific person, even if the children are unidentifiable, should be communicated to the Agency.

## Child and Family Support Services



Telephone: Joan King - Senior CFSN  
Co-ordinator 0871530959

Supporting families and keeping children and young people safe is everyone's business. Child and Family Support Networks (CFSN) help families access services as easily as possible in their own area. The CFSNs in Fingal are made up of all of the services in the county that help children and families. Examples of some of these services include schools, public health nurses, family resource centre etc. The Senior child and family network co-ordinator chairs the CFSN network. The CFSN network supports interagency working making sure all children's services stay connected and they also oversee the Meitheal process.

### Family Support services within Tusla

The family support service in Tusla is suitable for families and individuals who require additional supports. The concerns are dealt with in confidence by trained family support practitioners who will give the appropriate support and advice. The aim of the family support service is to build the capacity of parents, their families, and to promote the welfare of their children. The family support service provides support to families in their own homes.

### Meitheal

Meitheal is a Tusla-led Early Intervention Practice Model designed to ensure that the strengths and needs of children and their families are effectively identified, understood and responded to in a timely manner so that children and families get the help and support needed to improve children's outcomes and realise their rights. It is an early intervention, multi-agency access response, tailored to the needs of the individual child or young person. Meitheal is voluntary and can only be undertaken when the parent/carer is willing to do so. Meitheal is used in partnership with parents to help them share their own knowledge, expertise and concerns about their child and to hear the views of practitioners working with them. The goal is to enable parents and practitioners to work together to achieve a better life for the child.

[www.tusla.ie/services/family-community-support](http://www.tusla.ie/services/family-community-support)

## Family Support Services



### Family Resource Centre

South East Fingal Baldoyle Family Resource Centre - 01 832 6115

West Fingal Mountview Family Resource Centre - 01 820 6171

Wellview Family Resource Centre - 01 826 2878

North Fingal Aster Family Resource Centre - 01 8414463

All of the FRC's services are commissioned and Funded by Tusla Child and family Agency. The function of the FRC programme is to combat disadvantage and improve the functioning of the family unit. FRCs provide a range of universal and targeted services and development opportunities that address the needs of families. This can include information, advice, education and training, child and family programmes, referrals, Meitheal, counselling and networking.

## Safety, Protection and Enforcement



### AN GARDÁ SÍOCHÁNA

Blanchardstown Garda 01 666 7000  
(24 hours 7 days a week)

Garristown Garda Station 01 835 4112  
(opening times not set)

Balbriggan Garda Station 01 666 45000  
(24 hours 7 days a week)

Skerries Garda Station 01 849 1211  
(opening times not set)

Lusk Garda Station 01 843 7222  
(opening times not set)

Malahide Garda Station 01 666 4600  
(7am-9pm, 7 days a week)

Swords Garda Station 01 666 4700  
(24 hours 7 days a week)

Howth Garda Station 01 666 4900  
(7am-9pm, 7 days a week)

Dublin Airport Garda Station 01 666 4950  
(24 hours 7 days a week)

Website: [www.garda.ie](http://www.garda.ie)  
<https://www.garda.ie/en/crime/domestic-abuse/domestic-abuse.html>



## Legal Information and Advice

### Dublin District Family Law Office

Telephone: 01888 6355 / 6698 / 6511

Website: <https://www.courts.ie/content/dublin-district-family-law-office>

Email: [districtfamilylaw@courts.ie](mailto:districtfamilylaw@courts.ie)

The Dublin District Family Law Office is situated in Dolphin House.

#### Opening times:

Monday to Friday 9.30-13.00 and 14.00-16.00.

Walk in Ex-Parte applications will continue to be taken from 9.30-12.30 and 14.00-15.00

#### Business dealt with:

- Domestic violence
- Guardianship of children
- Maintenance of spouses and children
- Matters relating to passport applications
- Blood tests to determine parentage

Emergency domestic violence applications must be made in the Interview Room before 3.00 p.m. each day. If you need to bring an emergency application after hours, contact your local garda station. The garda station will contact the court clerk on call to arrange a court sitting. On Saturdays and public holidays, you may make an emergency application at the Criminal Courts Office, Criminal Courts of Justice, Parkgate Street, Dublin 8.

### Swords And Balbriggan District Court Offices

Telephone: 01 888 6625 / 6623 / 6621

Website: <https://www.courts.ie/offices/swords-and-balbriggan-district-court-office>

Email: [swords@courts.ie](mailto:swords@courts.ie)

#### Opening Hours

Monday to Friday: 9.30-12.45 and 14.00-16:30



### Citizens Information

#### Balbriggan CIC

1st Floor, Balbriggan Library, George's Square, Balbriggan

Phone: 0761 07 7450

#### Blanchardstown CIC

Westend House, Westend Business Park, Snugborough Road Extension, Blanchardstown, D15 KPW7

Phone: 0761 07 5040

#### Malahide CIC

2nd Floor Malahide Library, Main Street, Malahide, K36 EW63

Phone: 0761 07 7480

#### Skerries CIC

13 New Street, Skerries, K34 T624

Phone: 0761 07 7500

#### Swords CIC

Unit 26, The Plaza, Main Street, Swords, K67 WN23

Phone: 0761 07 7510

Website: <https://www.citizensinformation.ie/en/>

## Supports for Minority Ethnic Women



### AkiDwA

Akina Dada wa Africa, or AkiDwA for short, is a national network of migrant women living in Ireland. Akina Dada wa Africa means sisterhood in Swahili. AkiDwA works to promote equality and justice for migrant women living in Ireland by ensuring equal opportunities and access to resources. Our activities are focused on helping migrants to participate fully in all aspects of social, cultural, economic, civic and political life in Ireland. AkiDwA's work focuses on female genital mutilation (FGM), domestic violence, forced marriages and trafficking. Their work has involved awareness raising, training and advocating for migrant women affected in particular by Female Genital Mutilation.

Email: [info@akidwa.ie](mailto:info@akidwa.ie)  
Telephone: 01 83 49851  
Website: <https://akidwa.ie/>



**PAVEE POINT**  
TRAVELLER AND ROMA CENTRE

### Pavee Point

Pavee Point Traveller and Roma Centre provides strategic guidance, analysis, policy updates, information, training and support to Traveller organisations throughout Ireland to facilitate access, participation and outcomes from developments and services. We carry out specific programmes in a few areas, including health, education, community development, violence against women, drugs and alcohol, Roma Project and information team. As part of our violence against women programme, Pavee Point can signpost Traveller and Roma women to mainstream DSV services and supports.

Phone: +353 (01) 8780255  
Email: [info@pavee.ie](mailto:info@pavee.ie)

## Supports for male victims of DSGBV



**Men's Development Network**

Better Lives for Men, Better Lives for All

### The National Male Advice Line (MAL)

Offers confidential phone advice and support to Men experiencing domestic violence and abuse during specific hours, seven days a week, 365 days a year. It is a FREEPHONE service.

### Opening hours:

Monday & Wednesday: 10am-8pm,  
Tuesday & Thursday: 12-8pm,  
Friday 2-8pm,  
Saturday, Sunday, Bank Hols: 2-6pm

Website: [www.mensnetwork.ie](http://www.mensnetwork.ie)

Telephone: 1800 816 588



### Move

Men Overcoming Violence works in the area of domestic violence, with a primary aim of supporting the safety and wellbeing of women and their children who are experiencing, or have experienced violence/abuse in an intimate relationship. This is done through the CHOICES programme, which encourages men to:

- Learn about the effects and consequences of domestic violence on their partner and family
- Participate in group sessions with other individuals who have behaved in a similar way
- Identify the beliefs and attitudes which underpin violence and abuse

- Cope with their behaviour and feelings in difficult situations
- Learn how to react without being abusive
- Learn about respect and responsible parenting
- Learn to understand and recognise the need to change their behaviour

Website: [www.moveireland.ie](http://www.moveireland.ie)

Phone: 0864149591



### Men's Aid Ireland

Men's Aid Ireland formerly known as Amen, is the only dedicated national service supporting men and their families experiencing Domestic Violence in Ireland. Their professional and qualified support team have years of experience in supporting men and families experiencing domestic abuse.

### Men's Aid provide the following services:

- National Confidential Helpline - 01 554 3811
- Legal clinic - Information about Safety Orders, Protection Orders, Barring Orders.
- One to one practical support - Explaining Court Paperwork, Safety Planning, Care plans
- Counselling - By Telephone
- Counselling - Face to Face
- Certified Training - All areas of domestic abuse including coercive control

Phone: National Confidential Helpline - 01 554 3811

Email: [hello@mensaid.ie](mailto:hello@mensaid.ie)



# 11. The rights of employees impacted by DSGBV

## What is domestic violence leave?

If you are experiencing domestic violence and abuse, you may need to take time off work for urgent and essential matters relating to your situation.

This could be for medical visits, legal proceedings, counselling, looking for alternative accommodation or accessing domestic violence services. It might not be possible to do these things outside your work hours or you may need to keep them hidden from your abuser.

From 27 November 2023, you have a legal right to 5 days of paid domestic violence leave if you need to take time off work because of the abuse.

You do not need to be working in your job for a certain amount of time to qualify.

You do not have to give your employer notice to take the leave in emergency circumstances. However, you should give notice if you are able to. The domestic violence can be ongoing or have occurred in the past.

The entitlement to domestic violence leave comes from the [Work Life Balance and Miscellaneous Provisions Act 2023](#).

## If you are supporting someone

You can also take this leave if you are supporting a 'relevant person' such as a partner.

## How to apply

Check if your employer has a workplace domestic violence policy and follow the process to apply for the leave and other supports available.

## Do I need to give notice to my employer?

You do not have to give your employer notice to take domestic violence leave in emergency circumstances. You should give notice if you are able to, or as soon as you practically can after taking it.

## Disclosing your experience to your employer

Getting support from your employer means you need to disclose your experience to someone at work. In most jobs, employees usually tell their direct manager about absences. Or, your employer may assign a specific or designated person to handle matters related to domestic violence leave and other available support. The designated person could be a HR manager or the business owner. Your employer should make sure the designated person is well-trained to handle employee disclosures properly.

## Can my employer ask for proof?

You are not required to give your employer any supporting information or evidence when requesting domestic violence leave. There might be exceptional situations where your employer could ask for supporting documents, but this would be rare and is not in line with the intentions of the law.

## Confidentiality

Your employer should treat any information you disclose about domestic violence with the utmost sensitivity and confidentiality.

They should only share the information with those who need it for safety plans or administering domestic violence leave. Ideally, your employer should get your written permission before sharing any information.

Sharing information does not always mean breaking confidentiality. Your employer can find ways to share details without revealing your identity or the fact that you disclosed domestic violence.

## Other supports at work

After you tell your employer about the situation, your employer may discuss other ways to ensure your safety at work.

Possible ways to keep you safe include changes to work duties, location, contact details and other enhanced security measures. Any workplace safety plan is confidential and shared on a need-to know basis.

If there is a serious threat to your life or health, your employer may take action to refer you to a specialist organisation such as [Safe Ireland](#). Your employer should talk to you first before deciding whether a situation is a serious threat.

You or your employer can refer to the DV at Work [detailed guidance note](#) for different support options available. It covers:

- Travelling to and from work
- Safety on and off site
- Working from home
- Workplace communication
- Flexible working arrangements
- Financial needs
- Performance and behaviour
- Employee absence
- Perpetrator presence or contact
- Specialist support
- Sharing information

Source:

<https://www.irishstatutebook.ie/eli/2023/act/8/enacted/en/html>

<https://www.safeireland.ie/find-help/where-to-find-help/>

<https://www.citizensinformation.ie/en/birth-family-relationships/problems-in-marriages-and-other-relationships/signs-of-abusive-relationship/#l948af>

<https://dvatwork.ie/>

## More information

**Gardaí are specially trained to deal with these situations and can help you get support.**

You can get more information on the [support organisations and services](#) if you are a victim of abuse, or are helping someone who is a victim of domestic abuse.

The DV at Work website has [guidance on workplace supports and a policy template for employers](#).



## 12. Appendices

### Tusla Child And Family Agency – Child Protection And Domestic Abuse

Tusla has a primary responsibility to promote the safety and well-being of children and as such must always be informed when a person has reasonable grounds for concern that a child may have been, is being abused or is at risk of being abused or neglected. Such child protection concerns need to be supported by evidence that indicates the possibility of abuse or neglect.

In the case of Domestic Abuse, initial referrals are generally made by the Gardaí (called to attend an incident, where there is a child/children present within the household) to the local Duty Social Work team. Where the Garda attending believes there is an immediate risk to the child they will issue a Section 12 which will in turn enable the duty social worker to access an out of hours bed. Specialist Domestic Abuse services also provide initial child protection/welfare referrals.

Where it is suspected that a child is at risk there must be a report made under Children First. The term “Children First” was originally used in relation to Children First: National Guidelines for the Protection and Welfare of Children, first published in 1999 and reviewed and updated on a number of occasions since then, most recently in 2019 including online safety.

Since the enactment of the Children First Act 2015, the term is now a generic term used to encompass the guidance, the legislation and the implementation of both. Children First relates to the recognition of child abuse and neglect, the reporting of same to Tusla - Child and Family Agency, and the best practice which organisations should adhere to to keep children safe while availing of their services.

Non statutory obligations for all persons coming into contact with children are set out in the Children First Guidance, and the Children First Act 2015 sets out additional statutory obligations for defined categories of persons and for organisations providing relevant services to children.

Society has a duty of care towards children and everyone should be alert to the possibility that children with whom they are in contact may be being abused or be at risk of abuse<sup>1</sup>.

A joint working protocol for An Garda Síochána/Tusla Child & Family Agency was introduced into practice to ensure that:

- The safety and welfare of the child is promoted
- Everything possible is done to assist the criminal investigation
- Everything possible is done to assist the child protection and welfare assessment
- There is an effective flow of relevant information between both agencies
- Decisions and actions follow consultation with and between both agencies.<sup>22</sup>

### Legal Protection for Victims of Domestic Abuse and Coercive Control

Below is information on the types of orders available to victims of Domestic Violence and Coercive Control under the Domestic Violence Act 2018<sup>2</sup>.

#### A Safety Order

A safety order is an order of the court which prohibits the abusive person (the respondent) from committing further violence or threats of violence. They are not obliged to leave the home. If the abusive person is not living with the applicant, the safety order prohibits them from watching or being near their home and following or communicating (including electronically) with the applicant or a dependent person (any child).

Safety and protection orders may be obtained by the following:

- Spouses and Civil Partners: Current or former, regardless of cohabitation duration.
- Intimate Partners: People who are/were in an intimate relationship, including those not living together.
- Parents: A parent of a child whose other parent is the respondent.
- Parents and Adult Children: A parent can apply against their child if the child is over 18 and not dependent.
- Household Members: Adults living with the respondent in a non-contractual relationship (e.g., siblings, step-relatives).

A safety order does not exclude the offender from the home but offers the applicant (or a dependent) safety by prohibiting the respondent from:

- using or threatening to use violence against the applicant/dependent person,
- molesting or putting in fear the applicant/dependent person,
- if not residing with the applicant, prohibits watching or besetting a place where the applicant/dependent person resides,
- following or communicating (including electronically) with the applicant/dependent person.

A safety order may remain in place up to 5 years after its making and may be renewed.

<sup>1</sup>Children First, Tusla <https://www.tusla.ie/services/child-protection-welfare/children-first/>

<sup>2</sup>[https://www.tusla.ie/uploads/content/CF\\_Joint\\_Protocol.pdf](https://www.tusla.ie/uploads/content/CF_Joint_Protocol.pdf)

<sup>3</sup>The information on the orders was drawn from <https://www.garda.ie/en/crime/domestic-abuse/what-are-domestic-abuse-orders.html> and <http://www.irishstatutebook.ie/eli/2018/act/6/enacted/en/pdf>

### A Barring Order

A barring order requires the abusive person (the respondent) to leave the home and prohibits the abusive person from entering the home. The court may also, if it thinks fit, prohibit the person from further violence or threats of violence, watching or being near the applicant's home, or following or communicating (including electronically) with the applicant or a dependent person (any child).

A barring order may be obtained by:

- the spouse of the respondent,
- the civil partner of the respondent,
- a person who is not the spouse or civil partner of the respondent and is not related to the respondent within a prohibited degree of relationship but lived with the respondent in an intimate relationship prior to the application for the barring order, or
- a parent of the respondent who is not a dependent

A barring order shall:

- direct the respondent, if residing at a place where the applicant/dependent person resides, to leave the place,
- if the respondent is or is not residing at a place where the applicant/dependent person resides, shall prohibit the respondent from entering the place until further order of the court or until such other time as the court shall specify.

A barring order may also prohibit the respondent from doing any one or more of the following as the Court thinks fit:

- using or threatening to use violence against the applicant/dependent person,
- molesting or putting in fear the applicant/dependent person,
- prohibits watching or besetting a place where the applicant/dependent person resides,
- following or communicating (including electronically) with the applicant/dependent person.

A barring order may remain in place for up to 3 years after its making and may be renewed on or before expiration date of the barring order, for a period of up to three years.

### Interim Barring order

Where the court, on application to it for a barring order or between the making of that application and its determination, is of the opinion that there are reasonable grounds for believing there is an immediate risk to the safety of the applicant or a dependent (and a protection order would not provide sufficient protection), the court shall grant an interim barring order. The Interim barring order requires the abusive person to leave the home and prohibits the person from entering the home for up to 8 days.

An interim barring order may also prohibit the respondent from doing any one or more of the following as the Court thinks fit:

- using or threatening to use violence against the applicant/dependent person,
- molesting or putting in fear the applicant/dependent person,
- watching or besetting a place where the applicant/dependent person resides,
- following or communicating (including electronically) with the applicant/dependent person

An interim barring order may be obtained by:

- the spouse of the respondent,
- the civil partner of the respondent,
- a person who is not the spouse or civil partner of the respondent and is not related to the respondent within a prohibited degree of relationship but lived with the respondent in an intimate relationship prior to the application for the barring order, or
- a parent of the respondent who is not a dependent person.

An interim barring order may be made ex parte (where the respondent is not in court). An ex parte interim barring order will not exceed eight days. An interim barring order will cease to have effect on the determination of the application for the barring order.

### Emergency Barring Order

An emergency barring order requires the abusive person to leave the home, and prohibits the person from entering the home. This is an immediate order where there is reasonable grounds to believe there is an immediate risk of significant harm to the applicant or a dependent person if an order is not made immediately. An emergency barring order may be obtained by:

- a person who is not a spouse or civil partner or is not related to the respondent but did live in an intimate relationship with the respondent prior to the application.
- a parent of the respondent who is not a dependent.

An emergency barring order is only granted in circumstances where the applicant has no legal rights to the property or their rights are less than the respondent and there is an immediate risk of significant harm to the applicant or dependent person.

An emergency barring order can be granted ex-parte. Where granted, an emergency barring order shall operate in the same manner as a barring order but will only last for eight days. A subsequent emergency barring order cannot be sought within one month of the expiration of a previous emergency barring order.

An emergency barring order may, if the court thinks fit, prohibit the abusive person (respondent) from:

- using or threatening to use violence against the applicant/dependent person,
- molesting or putting the applicant/dependent person in fear,
- watching or besetting a place where the applicant/dependent person resides,
- following or communicating (including electronically) with the applicant / dependent person.

### Protection Order

Where there has been an application to the Court for a safety or a barring order or between the making of that application and its determination and there are reasonable grounds for believing that the safety or welfare of the applicant or dependent (any child) so requires, a protection order may be granted. The protection order will prohibit the respondent from:

- using or threatening the use of violence against, molesting or putting in fear, the applicant or a dependent person,
- if residing elsewhere, watching or besetting a place where the applicant or a dependent person resides,
- following or communicating (including electronically) with the applicant or a dependent person.

A protection order is temporary and expires on the determination by the court of the application for the barring or safety order. A protection order may be made ex parte.





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