**PROTECTION ORDER**

**What is a Protection Order?**

While you are waiting for a court hearing, a Protection Order can be granted if the court thinks there are reasonable grounds to believe your safety and welfare is at risk.

A Protection Order has the same effect as a [Safety Order](http://www.domesticabuse.ie/legal/) (but is only valid until the court hearing for the Safety or [Barring Order](http://www.domesticabuse.ie/legal/) takes place) whereby, the abusive person is prohibited from further violence or threats of violence, but is not required to leave the home.

**Who can apply for a Protection Order?**

* Spouses and civil partners
* Cohabiting couples
* Against a person with whom you have a child regardless if you have lived together or not
* Parents against their own child if he/she is over 18 years of age
* Others living together on a non-contractual basis e.g. siblings, step-relatives

It is best to apply as soon as possible after an abusive incident.

**How do you apply for a Protection Order?**

If you live in Dublin, you must go to the Dublin District Family Law Office - Dolphin House, Essex Street, Temple Bar, Dublin 2 (01) 888 6349.

You can also go to the Dublin District Court Office, Swords if this is near to where you live (01) 888 6625.

You do not need legal representation for an initial application, however, it is recommended that there is legal representation for the full court hearing. If you cannot afford a solicitor you can apply for [Free Legal Aid](http://www.flac.ie/help/centres/)

**What do I need to bring?**

* Proof of identity i.e. passport, drivers licence
* The abusive person’s address if they are not currently living with you
* If it is not your first application against this person, any reference numbers from previous cases

**Possible Outcomes**

* The protection order is put in place to protect you and is valid up until the date of the [safety](http://www.domesticabuse.ie/legal/) or [barring order](http://www.domesticabuse.ie/legal/) hearing.
* Order takes effect from when abusive person is notified of it by the Court or Gardaí.