**SAFETY ORDER**

**What is a Safety Order?**

Under the Domestic Violence Act 1996, a Safety Order prohibits an abusive person from further violence or threats of violence. It does not require the abusive person to leave the home. If the abusive person does not live with you, it prohibits them from being in the vicinity of or watching your home.

**Who can apply for a Safety 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 Safety 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**

* If application accepted, you will be given a date for a court hearing. An interim order may be put in place to protect you (see[*Interim Barring Order*](http://www.domesticabuse.ie/legal/)or[*Protection Order*](http://www.domesticabuse.ie/legal/)factsheets)
* You will be given your summons for the court hearing. A summons will be sent to the abusive person by post.
* If an order is granted it can last anything up to 5 years.
* Order takes effect from when abusive person is notified of it by the Court or Gardaí.