

KNOW YOUR RIGHTS

The Right to Protest



Irish Council for
Civil Liberties

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Disclaimer: the aim of this guide is to give general information about your rights. We have done our best to make sure the information is accurate and up to date, but you should not take it as legal advice.

About this guide

Protest, like freedom of expression, is a fundamental part of our democracy. When the right to protest is respected, it gives everyone the right to gather with others and have their voice heard in public.

Many positive social and political changes have happened in Ireland and around the world because of protests.

This guide tells you about:

- **your right to protest under Irish law (up to and including 2019);**
- **what you are allowed to do at a protest; and**
- **the limitations there may be on a protest, including Garda powers.**

Structure of this guide

There are three main sections in this guide.

Section 1: My rights when planning a protest

This section explains what rights you have when planning a protest including what type of protest you can organise and how the State must facilitate your right to protest.

Section 2: My rights during a protest

This section explains what kind of activity and behaviour you can engage in during a protest and what the Gardaí can and cannot do to limit your protest, including why they might arrest you.

Section 3: My rights after a protest

This section explains what happens if you are arrested and what you can do if you think the Gardaí have unfairly or unlawfully restricted your right to protest.

Please see page 3 'Key words' for specialist words we use in this guide.

Introduction

What do we mean by human rights?

Human rights are the basic freedoms and entitlements that all of us have. These rights should be available to everyone, whatever their sex, gender, nationality, language, race, ethnicity, disability, religion, marital or family status, sexual orientation, age, class, political opinion or other opinion might be and whether or not they are a member of the Traveller community.

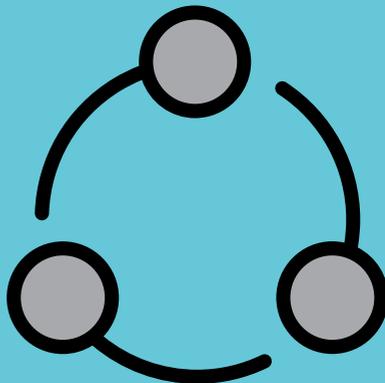
Ireland has made commitments under both national and international law to make sure that the rights of everyone living in the State are respected, protected and met.

Who makes sure my rights are respected?

The State must make sure that your rights are respected. This duty comes from sources including:

- the Constitution of Ireland (also known as Bunreacht na hÉireann);
- the European Convention on Human Rights (ECHR);
- the European Charter of Fundamental Rights and Freedoms; and
- the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights.

All agents of the Government, including An Garda Síochána (the police), schools and health services must respect your rights.



Key words explained

Arrestable offence

This is an offence with a penalty of at least five years in prison.

Breach of the peace

Legal term for where an individual or group is threatening or causing harm.

Caution

A warning given by a Garda to someone who accepts responsibility for a crime where there is evidence that they have committed that crime but a decision has been made not to prosecute them.

Conspiracy

Two or more people combining to engage in an unlawful act.

Conviction

Being found guilty of a criminal offence.

Custody

Being in custody means you are deprived of your liberty and you are under the supervision of the Gardaí. When you are arrested you are taken into custody.

Duty solicitor

This is a criminal defence solicitor who is provided to you if you don't have your own solicitor and you have been arrested.

Effective remedy

If your rights are breached, you are entitled to have the breach recognised and, where possible, your rights restored. This might include an apology or compensation.

Garda vetting

When applying for certain jobs, especially if you hope to work with children, your future employer will ask you to undergo Garda vetting. The Gardaí will check if you have a conviction for a crime and this information will be shared with your future employer.

General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR)

An EU law that outlines rules to protect the storing and processing of your personal data (information). GDPR has been in place here since 2018.

Member in charge

This is the Garda in the Garda station who is in charge of you and your welfare when you are being held in a Garda station.

Narrow legal interpretation

This is where a definition of a legal term is interpreted in a very specific way.

Offence

An act or behaviour that is against the law.

Key legislation explained

Criminal Justice (Public Order) Act 1994

The Criminal Justice (Public Order) Act 1994 covers a wide range of public order offences and gives Gardaí many powers to deal with offences and crowd control at public events and demonstrations.

It is important for protestors to know about this Act.

Throughout this booklet, we will call this Act the Public Order Act.

Offences against the State Act

The Offences against the State Act covers crimes that pose a threat to the State like trying to overthrow the government with violence. The Act gives the Gardaí broader powers of arrest and detention than they have under ordinary law.

For protestors, the most important section of this Act is section 30.

Section 30 gives Gardaí the power to stop, question, search and arrest a person suspected of:

- having committed or about to commit an offence under the Offences against the State Act; or
- a person suspected of having documents or information in relation to an offence under this Act.

If you are detained under section 30, Gardaí can:

- demand your name and address;
- search you or your vehicle;
- photograph you; and
- take your fingerprints.

Road Traffic Acts

The rules for driving on public roads are set out in the Road Traffic Act 1961 and its amendments, that is- the changes and updates to this Act.

For protestors, the most important part of this Act is section 107.

Section 107 gives Gardaí the power to stop vehicles at random to ask questions, even where the driver of the vehicle is not suspected of having committed any offence.

If your vehicle is stopped and the Garda suspects you may have committed a road traffic offence, they can ask you for your name and address. If you do not give these details to this Garda, it is an offence.

A protestor is within their rights to ask the questioning Garda what specific offence is suspected. This is when the Garda must refer to Section 107 of the Road Traffic Act.



My rights when planning a protest

What laws protect my right to protest?

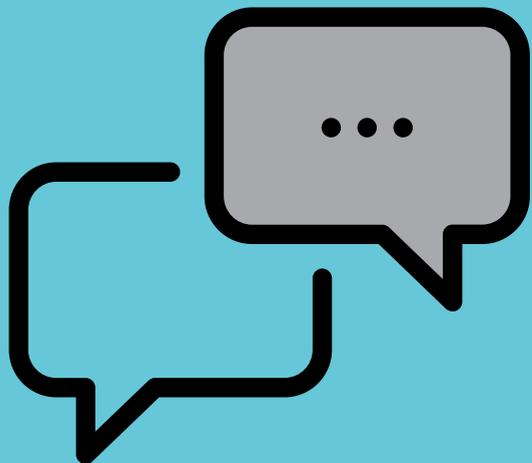
The right to peaceful protest is protected under:

- the Constitution of Ireland (also known as Bunreacht na hÉireann);
- the European Convention on Human Rights (ECHR);
- the European Charter of Fundamental Rights and Freedoms; and
- the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights.

These laws do not clearly state that your right to protest is protected, but they do clearly state that the rights listed here are protected. These are the rights that make up your right to protest.

- **The right to freedom of expression, which is the right of every individual to hold opinions without interference and to seek, receive and share information and ideas through any media.**
- **The right to freedom of assembly, which is the right to gather and meet both in public and in private.**
- **The right to freedom of association, which is the right to organise and to form and take part in groups.**

Everybody in Ireland has these rights.



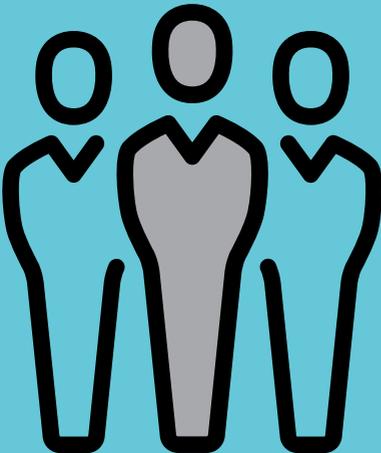
Can I gather with a group to protest?

Yes. You have a right to gather in groups to voice opposition or support for social, cultural, political or other causes.

Does it matter what I want to protest about?

Yes. It can matter what you want to protest about. In general, the State must let you protest even if it does not agree with your message. However, you do not have the right to protest if:

- you are promoting violence or are inciting hatred (provoking hatred); or
- your group is considered an 'unlawful group', such as a group that has been designated a terrorist organisation.



What other rights do I have that are useful to know about when I protest?

You have many other rights that may be important when you are involved in a protest.

- **Your right to life, liberty and security of person**
- **Your right to be treated humanely and with dignity**
- **Your right to privacy**
- **Your right to freedom of religion or belief**
- **Your right to effective remedy if your right to protest is violated. This means you have a right to make a formal complaint to a state body such as the Garda Síochána Ombudsman Commission (GSOC), which is the body created to receive complaints about Garda behaviour.**
- **Your right to be treated equally when you use your rights. So, for example, you have the right to protest no matter what your sex, gender, nationality, language, race, ethnicity, disability, religion, age, class, political opinion or other opinion might be.**

What are my protest rights when I am online?

The rights you have in the physical world apply in the online world too. This means that rights that exist for physical gatherings should extend to online gatherings such as group chats.

You also have a right to privacy online. This means that Gardaí are limited in how much of your private online preparations for a protest they can legally monitor.



Do I have to tell Gardaí if I am planning a protest?

No. You do not have to tell An Garda Síochána of a planned protest. But it may be helpful to let Gardaí know about your plans.

Under our Constitution and human rights law, Gardaí must facilitate peaceful protests. If you tell Gardaí about a protest march beforehand, they will usually help with planning for protest marches on public roads.

Where can I protest?

You have a right to protest in most public spaces such as roads and footpaths.

What form can a protest take?

These types of protest are allowed:

- Parades
- Processions
- Marches
- Stationary protests on roads and footpaths, such as pickets, so long as a wheelchair user can get by.

When is a protest considered trespass?

Trespass means going into private property, such as a person's front garden, without their consent or permission.

Criminal trespass means when you trespass on private property and you are:

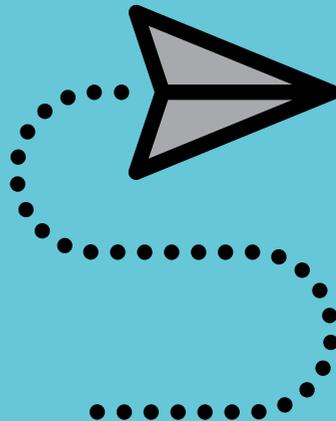
- behaving in a way that causes or is likely to cause fear; or
- intending to commit a crime or interfere with property.

Can I protest at places like shopping centres?

Generally, yes. Some places are semi-private, but the public have a general right of access. Examples are shopping centres and football stadiums. In these places, there may be rules that restrict certain types of peaceful protest. For example, certain signs may not be allowed during football games if the signs might be offensive.

Can I protest at places that are providing state services?

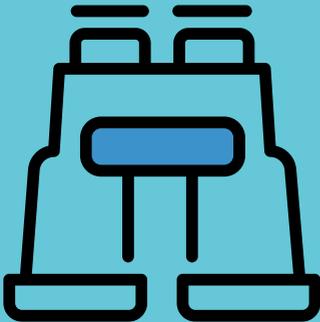
Any private contractor that provides state services should respect your rights, including your right to protest. The Irish government is obliged to ensure that this happens. **For example, Direct Provision centres are run by private contractors, but these contractors are delivering a state service. They, therefore, must respect your right to protest.**



Can Gardaí collect information about me during a protest?

Yes. But data protection law has strict rules on collecting and storing your personal data. The General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR) covers your right to privacy when you organise a protest and when you are protesting. It covers data that might be gathered online and offline, such as photos.

Gardaí are allowed to collect information to prevent, detect, investigate or prosecute a crime and the GDPR does not specifically cover law enforcement. However, the EU Law Enforcement Directive will apply (incorporated into Irish law in the Irish Data Protection Act 2018). This requires that your data must be gathered lawfully and fairly and all infringements [violations] of or limits to your right to privacy have to be strictly necessary and as minimal as possible.



When can my right to protest be limited?

As a general rule, protests can be restricted to protect:

- the rights of others;
- public order; or
- national security.

But restrictions on protest must:

- be necessary;
- be as limited as possible; and
- treat everyone equally – that is, the restrictions must not be discriminatory.

During a protest, Gardaí may intervene (get involved) if they think there is or will be a breach of the peace or if they think the protest is causing too much disruption to other people or to traffic. They may do this if protesters:

- block traffic for a very long time and traffic cannot be diverted onto another route;
- affect public health and safety by, for example, blocking ambulances.

Gardaí also have the right to limit protest within one half-mile of the Oireachtas (the Irish parliament) if members of the Oireachtas are sitting (meeting officially). You can check when the Oireachtas sits on www.oireachtas.ie.

What can I do if I think Gardaí have unfairly limited my right to protest?

If you think Gardaí have unfairly limited your constitutional right to protest, you can challenge this in court. A judge will decide whether your right to protest was violated. The judge may examine if the limitations were required for a 'pressing social need'. Examples of pressing social needs are:

- allowing an ambulance to pass;
- protecting an individual or group from harm; or
- security concerns.

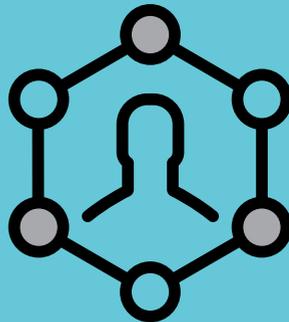
The European Court of Human Rights has said:

“any demonstration in a public place inevitably causes a certain level of disruption to ordinary life, including disruption of traffic, and [...] it is important for the public authorities to show a certain degree of tolerance towards peaceful gatherings”.

In deciding if a protest has been legal, Irish courts have considered concerns such as safety, sensitivity and security.

The Irish Constitution allows protest to be restricted where protesters may cause a nuisance to the general public. But the courts have interpreted this narrowly – that is, the courts say this means protest can be restricted only on a strict and limited interpretation of nuisance, for example:

- when the activities of protesters are making it difficult or impossible for the general public to access amenities such as a building;
- if it blocks access to a private dwelling (like a house); or
- if it is held late at night in a purely residential area. The “context and nature of the protest” will be taken into account by the Court.



My rights during the protest

Does my protest have to be peaceful?

Yes. Protesters are not protected under the Constitution or human rights law if they threaten or use violence. But the question of what peaceful protest is may be open to interpretation.

Peaceful protest

The European Court of Human Rights (ECHR) has held that if protestors remain peaceful while surrounded by others who are protesting unlawfully or violently, they may continue a protest with the protection of the ECHR. Violence or disorder that coincides with the protest but is not part of the protest will not remove the protection of the law from the protest. This means that even if some people engage in violence, the peaceful protesters still have a right to continue their protest.

If not peaceful, Gardaí can get involved

If Gardaí consider that there is a danger to the public or an imminent or actual breach of the peace, they may get involved (intervene) to restrict the protest — but only as much as is necessary to address the breach of the peace. A **breach of the peace** means a situation where there is a threat of immediate harm (harm just about to happen) to a person through an assault, fighting (affray), riot, an unlawful assembly or another serious disturbance.

Are there rules about slogans or signs?

It depends. Using coarse language or swear words does not make a protest unlawful. But using language or displaying signs that can be considered threatening, abusive or insulting to a level that could cause a breach of the peace could be considered criminal behaviour.

The Irish courts have not examined what the threshold (level of seriousness) for “insulting” or “obscene” might be at a protest. The European Court of Human Rights has held that even where a demonstration may annoy or give offence the participants in the demonstration must be able to proceed.



Can Gardaí ask that I move on?

Yes. In some circumstances Gardaí can ask protesters to move on. This is covered under section 8 of the Public Order Act. Gardaí must have a **reasonable cause to suspect the protester of a certain act or action**. The Act lists these acts or actions.

- A protester is so intoxicated they are a danger to themselves or to other people
- A protester is engaged in a serious offence or serious or unnecessary annoyance
 - between 12am – 7am; or
 - after being asked by a Garda to stop.
- A protester is using words or behaviour that are threatening, abusive or insulting to a level that could create a breach of the peace by another member of the public.
- A protester is obstructing the public highway so that the right of traffic to move is unfairly blocked.
- Protesters are gathering in a threatening manner (a way that is likely to cause others to be afraid).
- A protester is seen as **loitering** – this is where another member of the public reasonably thinks there is a possibility of danger to themselves or to property. It is unlikely that peaceful protestors would be accused of loitering.
- A reasonable cause for suspecting a protester is planning, engaged in or has committed a crime must be based on facts, not opinion. In other words, a Garda's own

personal belief is not the deciding factor. So they can't say, for example, "He looked like he might be a danger to others." They have to give a clear reason, such as, "He looked like he was a danger to others because he was swinging a stick in a violent manner close to others."

What rights apply to audio and visual recording?

Generally, a protester, like a citizen journalist, can take audio or visual recordings in a public place.

... but it is different for Gardaí

A different set of rules applies to audio or visual recording by Gardaí. As a public body, Gardaí must comply with (follow) human rights law, including the law protecting your right to privacy. While Gardaí can watch protests, they cannot record everyone taking part in a protest for no reason as this interferes with their privacy. Broad surveillance that is not targeted at individuals is not compatible with the right to privacy.

Where Gardaí are focusing their surveillance on particular people because they suspect them of criminal activity, their actions must still be legal, strictly necessary, and proportionate. This means that Gardaí must:

- have a genuine reason to start recording a member of the public;
- make sure that interfering with

privacy is as minimal as possible;
and

- make sure that interfering with privacy is justified by the aim of fighting crime.

Gardaí should never use recording to attempt to intimidate or try to persuade protesters not to take part in a protest.

What are my data protection rights if the Gardaí have been recording me?

The General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR) provides strict rules about gathering and storing personal data, including why and how it is collected and stored. Examples of personal data includes your name and address. These rules may help to better protect protesters, though they have not yet been tested for this in the courts.

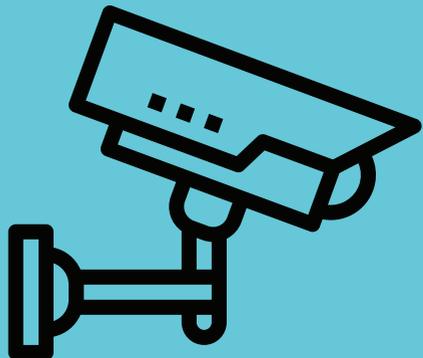
Gardaí do have the right to restrict some of your rights to prevent, detect, investigate and prosecute criminal offences.

But Gardaí must still act in line with the EU Law Enforcement Directive, as incorporated into Irish Law in the Data Protection Act 2018. Any data collected by the police must be:

- processed lawfully and fairly;
- collected for specified, clearly defined and legitimate purposes and processed only in line with these purposes;
- adequate, relevant and not excessive for the purpose in which

it is processed;

- accurate and updated where necessary;
- kept in a form that allows the individual to be identified for no longer than is necessary for the purpose of the processing;
- appropriately secured – must be protected against unauthorised or unlawful processing and accidental loss, destruction or damage.



Do I have to give my name and address to Gardaí if they ask for it?

It depends. There is **no general requirement** to give your name and address to Gardaí. **But** in two particular cases it is an offence if you do not give your name and address or give one that a Garda thinks is false or misleading. In these cases, the Garda is allowed to arrest you without a warrant (judge's written instruction to arrest you).

There are two ways it is an offence not to give your name and address

1. If a Garda believes that you have committed an offence under the Public Order Act, they can ask for your name and address **after** they have told you of the offence they believe you may have committed.
2. If a Garda believes you have committed an offence under the Offences against the State Act, they can ask for your name and address **after** they have told you they believe you have committed an offence under the Offences against the State Act. But they do not have to tell you what specific offence they think you have committed.

What can Gardaí legitimately ask me to do during a protest?

Gardaí can ask you to:

- stop behaving in a way that would be an offence under the Public Order Act;
- leave the area in a peaceful and orderly way if Gardaí believe an offence has been committed or is about to be committed;
- leave land that you are occupying if you are likely to substantially damage the land. If you do not leave the land as Gardaí ask, that could be an offence in itself.

If Gardaí ask you to move on and you do not, this may be an offence. And although Gardaí are obliged to facilitate your right to protest, it is wise to comply with their direction at the time. If you believe their direction was wrong or unjustified, you can challenge their decision later with the help of a solicitor.

Can Gardaí block my path?

Gardaí cannot generally block your path if you are not under arrest. But if there are safety or security concerns, Gardaí may direct you to take another route.

Can Gardaí put up barriers to restrict free movement?

Yes. Under section 21 of the Public Order Act, a Garda superintendent can authorise Gardaí to set up barriers. These barriers are to stop people accessing an area where an event that a large number of people are likely to attend is taking place or about to take place. This order is called a section 21 safety order.

At the event, a Garda can direct you to another entrance, but they cannot stop you entering unless you need a ticket and do not have one. It could be an offence if you do not follow this direction.

A section 21 safety order does not otherwise affect the right to peaceful protest, and it does not generally stop a person from going to a public event.



Can Gardaí arrest me without a warrant during a protest?

Yes. Gardaí can arrest you without a warrant during a protest if you are:

- intoxicated in a public place and a Garda reasonably believes you pose a danger to yourself or others;
- engaging in threatening, abusive or insulting behaviour in a public place;
- distributing or displaying threatening, abusive, insulting or obscene material;
- not following the direction of a Garda;
- criminally trespassing;
- involved in a riot, violent disorder, or affray (fighting);
- engaged in an assault or obstruction of a Garda.

What happens if I am arrested?

What is an arrest?

An arrest is when you are taken into Garda custody and are not allowed to leave.

If you attend a Garda station voluntarily to assist Gardaí, you can leave at any time.

Why would Gardaí arrest me?

A Garda may arrest you for a variety of reasons.

To charge you

They may arrest you to charge you with an offence.

To detain and question you

You may be arrested to bring you to a Garda station where you may be detained (held) and questioned.

To execute a warrant against you

This means that they would arrest you in line with a judge's written instruction to do this. This may be a:

- bench warrant, or
- committal warrant

A bench warrant applies when you were supposed to appear in court and you did not.

A committal warrant applies if you were sentenced to prison in your absence – that is, when you were not in court.

Do Gardaí need a warrant to arrest me?

Gardaí may not need a warrant to arrest you. They have a wide variety of powers of arrest. They do not need a warrant if they are arresting you for **one** of the following reasons:

- They reasonably suspect that you have committed a serious offence.

- They believe that you are committing an offence under the Road Traffic Acts.
- They find you committing an offence under the Public Order Act.
- You are a foreign national and you do not show an identity document when a Garda asks you to without a reasonable excuse.
- You are a foreign national and a Garda suspects that a deportation order has been made against you but you have not complied with it.

These are common examples of situations where you could be arrested without a warrant, but Gardaí can arrest you without a warrant in many other situations.

Can I be arrested in my home?

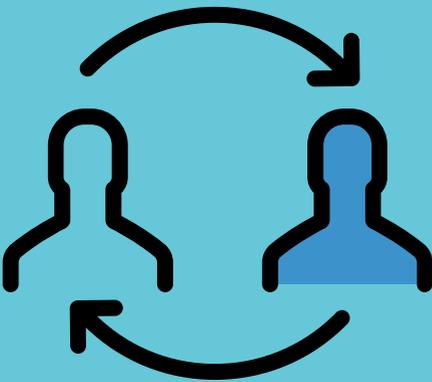
Sometimes, Gardaí can enter your home to arrest you. For example, Gardaí can enter your home to arrest you for an arrestable offence. An arrestable offence is an offence with a penalty of at least five years in prison where you have not been convicted of an offence before.

Can I be arrested if I have not committed an offence?

Yes. You can be arrested without having committed an offence. But, in general, Gardaí can arrest you only if they have a reasonable suspicion that you have committed an offence.

Generally, Gardaí cannot arrest you because they believe that you might assist with an investigation into someone else. But if Gardaí are investigating someone under the Offences against the State Act and they suspect you of withholding (not providing) information about the crime, they can arrest you as this is a separate offence.

People can be arrested without a warrant for **conspiracy**. This might affect you if you are protesting. For example, if Gardaí believe you are planning an unlawful demonstration where it was planned to riot, you may be arrested for conspiracy.



How do I know if I am under arrest?

Gardaí must tell you that you are under arrest, and it should be clear to you that you are not free to leave. You may be physically restrained. For example, you may be put in handcuffs.

Am I entitled to know the reason for my arrest?

Yes. You are entitled to be told in simple language that you are under arrest and the reason for your arrest.

An exception to this rule can be found under Section 30 of the Offences against the State Act. Under this section, you must simply be told you are being arrested under that Act.

What should I do if I am arrested?

If you are arrested, try to do these things.

- Stay calm and follow the directions of Gardaí.
- Make sure somebody knows what Garda station you are being taken to.
- Have the name and number of a trusted solicitor with you.
- Before you are interviewed or sign a statement, make sure you get to speak with your solicitor, as this is your right.

Do I have a right to remain silent?

After you give your name and address, you have a right to remain silent. In some situations, remaining silent may count against you in a trial. An example is if you are arrested for a crime that would attract a prison sentence of five or more years. But remaining silent can never be used to prove your guilt on its own.

If a Garda tells you that they are asking you questions in relation to Section 52 of the Offences against the State Act, you must answer questions about your movements, actions and knowledge of any offence under that Act.

Offences under the Act include offences of a treasonous nature, such as obstructing the government by force of arms.

Can Gardaí arrest me if I am under 18?

Yes. Gardaí have the power to arrest a person under 18, but they must act with additional respect for your personal rights. Except in certain circumstances, you cannot be questioned unless an appropriate adult, usually a parent or guardian, is with you.

You cannot be arrested if you are under 12. You cannot be kept in a cell when you are in a Garda station if you are under 12, unless you are being held under section 30 of the Offences against the State Act.

If I am not an Irish or EU citizen, are there additional concerns?

If you are not an Irish or EU citizen or a Garda suspects you are not either of these, the Garda can ask you to produce some form of ID. If you cannot produce any ID or a satisfactory explanation as to why you don't have ID, you could be detained (held) and found guilty of an offence.

If you don't understand English or have problems understanding Gardaí, you have a right to ask for an interpreter.

If you are planning to apply for Irish citizenship, a caution (formal warning from the Gardaí) or a conviction could make your application more complicated.

Can Gardaí stop and search me?

Gardaí can stop you at any time. If Gardaí have a reasonable suspicion that you have committed a certain type of offence, such as a drug offence, they can search you without your consent and before you have been arrested. This includes people under the age of 18. But, generally, they must tell you why you are being searched.

Generally, Gardaí must get a search warrant before they may search your premises or home without your consent.

What if I don't think I should be arrested?

You should not resist arrest even if you think that you should not be arrested. If you resist, you may be injured. Later, charges could be brought against you for obstructing justice, resisting arrest or assaulting a Garda, even if it turns out that you should not have been arrested.

If you think that you should not have been arrested, or you are concerned about the way in which you were arrested, tell your solicitor as soon as you see them. If you have been unlawfully arrested or detained, you are entitled to a 'remedy'. This could include an apology or compensation.

Can Gardaí use force in arresting me?

Yes. Gardaí can use reasonable force to arrest you. If too much force is used or the force is not reasonable in the circumstances, the Garda can be prosecuted or sued for assault. You can also complain to the Garda Síochána Ombudsman Commission (GSOC).

Can I be re-arrested for the same offence after they have let me go?

Yes. If Gardaí have arrested and released you, they can re-arrest you:

- to charge you with an offence;
- to question you about an offence; or
- where they have received more information about your suspected involvement in the offence.

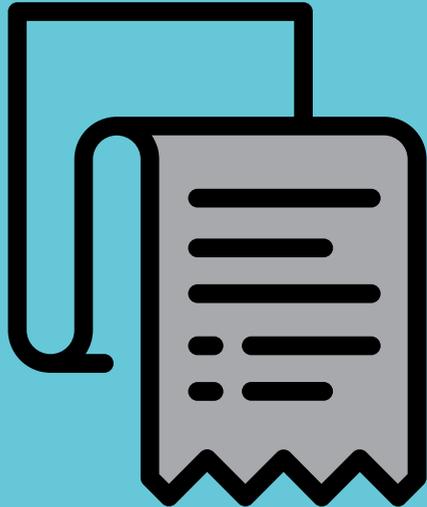


My rights after the protest

I believe a Garda has acted unlawfully. What can I do?

If you think a Garda may have acted unlawfully, do these things as soon as possible.

- Write down everything you remember.
- Get contact details from witnesses, such as names and phone numbers.
- Take photos of any injuries you have.
- Talk to a solicitor.
- Complain in writing to the Garda Síochána Ombudsman's Office (GSOC). You can complain to GSOC without consulting a solicitor.



I think a Garda has unlawful possession of my data. What can I do?

If you think that the collection or retention of your data is unlawful, you can do something about it.

- You can write to the Gardaí and ask what data they have on you.
- You can also complain to the Data Protection Commissioner through their website and find out more about your data rights at www.dataprotection.ie

After an arrest

Where will I be brought after I have been arrested?

After you are arrested, you may be brought to court or to a Garda station. This will depend on why you have been arrested.

- If you were fined for an offence and you did not pay the fine, you may be arrested and brought before a court. The court may put you in prison for not paying the fine.
- If you have been arrested to be charged, you will probably be brought to a Garda station to be charged and then brought to the District Court or released on bail.
- If you have been arrested for questioning, you will be brought to a Garda station where you could be detained.

What should I do when I am brought to a prison or Garda station?

If you are arrested, you should ask either the Governor of the prison or the member in charge of the Garda station to contact your solicitor immediately. The Governor of the prison or the member in charge should tell you that you have a right to a solicitor.

The member in charge is usually the sergeant working in the custody area in which you are being held.

You may write or phone your solicitor. If you do not have a solicitor, you can consult with the duty solicitor in the station instead.

If you are under 18, your parent or guardian will be notified and asked to attend at the station without delay.

The member in charge is responsible for your welfare while you are in Garda custody. If you need medical treatment, food or water, ask the member in charge.

At all times during your arrest and detention, Garda members must treat you with respect and must not subject you to ill treatment (cause you harm).

What happens if I am a non-national and I am arrested?

If you are a non-Irish national, you may communicate with a diplomatic or consular representative of your own country. If you wish, your consul will be told that you have been arrested. If you are a national of the United States of America, your consular representative will be notified of your arrest **unless** you request otherwise.

What if I don't have a solicitor?

If you are taking part in a protest, it is best to have the name and number of a solicitor you trust with you. If you don't, the member in charge in a Garda station should provide contact details for the duty solicitor. A **duty solicitor** is a criminal defence solicitor who helps people who have been arrested.

If you think you cannot afford a solicitor, you can:

- apply for free legal aid when you appear in court; or
- get free legal advice from the Free Legal Advice Centres (FLAC).

What can I do if a friend or family member is arrested?

If a friend or family member is arrested, contact their solicitor immediately. The solicitor will be able to find out where your friend or family member is and why they have been arrested.

What information must Gardaí give me when I am arrested?

They Gardaí must give you a C72 form. This form tells you about your rights while you are detained. When you are arrested, you should be given a copy of the C72 form as soon as possible. You are allowed to keep this form while you are detained.

Can I be interviewed? What are my rights during an interview?

If you have been arrested for an offence that carries a prison sentence of a minimum of five years, you may be interviewed under caution. This means that you are being interviewed as a suspect in a case and you have a right to have a solicitor at the interview.

Will I always be prosecuted after I am arrested?

No.

1. You may be offered an adult caution. This means you accept responsibility for committing a crime, but you will not be prosecuted. There must be some evidence that you committed a crime before a Garda can give you a caution. Cautions do not show up on Garda vetting reports, but you should not accept a caution without speaking first to a solicitor.
2. A decision may be made to prosecute you. If you decide to plead not guilty to the charge, you are entitled to a fair trial. Your solicitor may advise you that your right to protest may be part of your defence.

3. If you are between 12 and 18 you may be considered for the criminal diversion programme. This involves accepting responsibility for the offence and receiving a caution. You can find out more about the rights of children and young people in ICCL's **Know Your Rights Guide on Children and Young People**.

What happens if I am convicted of an offence?

If you are convicted of an offence or you plead guilty, you will have to pay a fine, spend some time in prison or both.

There are many instances where you have to declare a conviction – that is, you will have to say you have a conviction if you are asked. A conviction may have far-reaching effects.

- If you are travelling, you may have to declare the conviction. Depending on where you are travelling, the conviction might affect your right to enter that country.
- If you are Garda vetted for a job, a conviction will show up on the vetting report.
- You might not be able to get certain kinds of jobs.
- You may find it harder to get credit, loans or insurance.
- It may influence a decision on a citizenship application, including an application for citizenship in Ireland.
- If you are convicted of a minor

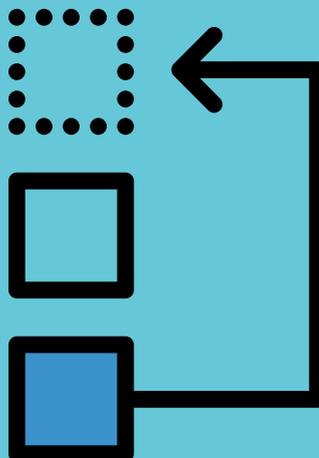
public order offence, it is considered spent after seven years. This means you will not have to declare it in Ireland anymore. But you may still have to declare the conviction in another country. It will depend on the local law.

What are the penalties for a public order offence?

If you are convicted of a public order offence, you may be fined, put in prison or both.

If you are convicted of a violent public order offence, the penalties will be more serious.

See table on next two pages.



Offence	Penalty	Section of the Act
Intoxicated (drunk) in a public place	Fine of up to €500	4
Disorderly conduct	Fine of up to €1,000	5
Threatening, abusive or insulting behaviour in a public place	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Fine of up to €1,000, or • Prison for up to 3 months, or • Both 	6
Distribution or display in a public place of material which is threatening, abusive, insulting or obscene	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Fine of up to €1,000, or • Prison for up to 3 months, or • Both 	7
Not following the direction of a Garda	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Fine of up to €1,000, or • Prison for up to 6 months, or • Both 	8
Wilful (deliberate) obstruction of people or traffic without lawful authority or reasonable excuse	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Fine of up to €400 	9
Trespass on a building causing fear or likely to cause fear without reasonable excuse	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Fine of up to €2,500, or • Prison for up to 12 months, or • Both 	13 (1)
Failing to follow a Garda direction to stop acting in a manner causing fear and leave the area where the Garda suspects criminal trespass	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Fine of up to €1,000, or • Prison for up to 6 months, or • Both 	13 (2)
Involved in a riot or violent disorder	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A fine, the value of which is not specified in the legislation, or • Prison for up to 10 years 	14 and 15
Affray (fighting)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A fine the value of which is not specified in the legislation, or • Prison for up to 5 years 	16

Offence	Penalty	Section of the Act
Blackmail, extortion (getting something like money through force or threats) and demanding money with menaces (threats).	<p>Minor offence</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • fine of up to €1,000, or • prison up to 12 months, or • both. <p>Serious offence</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • an unspecified fine • prison up to 14 years, or • both 	17
Assault with the intent of causing bodily harm	<p>Minor offence</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Fine up to €2,500, or • prison up to 12 months, or • both <p>Serious offence</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Unspecified fine, or • prison for up to 5 years, or • both 	18
Assault of a Garda, person offering medical assistance or a peace officer — which are ambulance staff, fire fighters, prison staff, and so on	<p>Minor offence</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Fine of up to €5,000, or • prison up to 12 months, or • both <p>Serious offence</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Unspecified fine, or • Prison for up to 7 years, or • both 	19 (1)
Impeding or obstructing medical services or a peace officer	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Fine of up to €2,500, or • Prison for up to 6 months • Both 	19 (3)

Do Gardaí have the right to collect my DNA?

In some cases, Gardaí can collect a DNA sample from you. The sample will be used to create a DNA profile (detailed description) of your genetics. This will be entered into the DNA Database System. This is regulated by the Criminal Justice (Forensic Evidence and DNA Database System) Act 2014.

If you are arrested for a serious offence, usually a serious crime with a prison sentence of five or more years, you may be asked to provide a non-intimate DNA sample. A non-intimate sample is a sample of hair, nails or skin or a mouth swab.

A Garda of the rank of sergeant or above must authorise this sample. Before the sample is taken, Gardaí must tell you that the sample has been authorised.

If a non-intimate sample has been authorised, it is a criminal offence to refuse to give the sample. If you refuse, Gardaí can take the sample by force.

Gardaí cannot take an intimate DNA sample without your consent. Examples of intimate samples include blood, pubic hair or urine.

Your DNA sample and the DNA profile made from it may be given to other people or organisations that are involved in investigating a crime or in a court case. The sample or profile may also be sent outside of the State.

But these things must be done in line with the law outlined in the Criminal Justice (Forensic Evidence and DNA Database System) Act 2014. The legislation outlines when a DNA sample or the DNA profile may be destroyed or deleted from the DNA Database System.

Section 76 of the Act provides that an intimate sample or a non-intimate sample taken from a person shall be destroyed within 3 months from the date on which you are acquitted of the offence (found not guilty by a court) or if the charge was dismissed or the proceedings are discontinued (stopped), and in other circumstances.

Remember, if you are in Garda custody, it is important to get legal advice.



Contacts

Complaints

Garda Síochána Ombudsman Commission

You can make a complaint to the Garda Síochána Ombudsman Commission (GSOC) about the behaviour of a Garda if 1) it has affected you directly, 2) if you were a witness to the behaviour or 3) on behalf of someone else if you have their permission. You must complain within six months of the incident taking place unless you have a good reason for the delay.

If you are under 18, your parent/guardian can also make a complaint on your behalf.

GSOC will decide whether your complaint is admissible. If it is admissible the Ombudsman may refer the complaint for mediation or an investigation may be carried out by the Garda Commissioner, by the Garda Commissioner under Garda Ombudsman supervision or by the Garda Ombudsman itself. If the complaint is upheld disciplinary measures may be taken against the Garda in question or it may be referred on for criminal prosecution in more serious cases where a criminal offence may have occurred.

150 Upper Abbey Street, Dublin 1
Lo-call: 1890 600 800
Email: info@gsoc.ie
www.gardaombudsman.ie

Data Protection Commissioner

The Data Protection Commissioner investigates complaints by individuals who feel their right to privacy has not been adequately protected or their personal details have been wrongly used. If you give any personal details or information to an organisation or individual, that organisation or person has a responsibility to respect your right to privacy by keeping your information safe and private.

Their website also includes a plain English guide on your rights under data protection law.

21 Fitzwilliam Square South
Dublin 2, D02 RD28.
Tel: +353 578 684 800
+353 761 104 800
www.dataprotection.ie

Irish Human Rights and Equality Commission (IHREC)

The Irish Human Rights and Equality Commission (IHREC) works to protect and promote human rights, and to ensure that discrimination does not occur in relation to any of the areas outlined in equality legislation.

You can complain to IHREC if you feel that you have been discriminated against. It can provide you with information on equality law. In certain cases it may also provide legal assistance.

Contacts

You can ask IHREC to carry out an enquiry or to give you legal advice or assistance to take a case if you feel that your human rights have been violated. However, it will only consider your request for an enquiry or take a legal case where there is no other more appropriate body to deal with your complaint.

16-22 Green Street,
Dublin 7, D07 CR20

For information:

Lo-call: 1890 245 545

Tel: +353 (0)1 858 3000

Email: YourRights@ihrec.ie

For enquiries:

Tel: 01 858 9601

Email: info@ihrec.ie

www.ihrec.ie

Office of the Information Commissioner

If you have applied for any of your records from a public body under Freedom of Information legislation and have been refused then you may appeal this decision to the Information Commissioner. You must have asked the public body to carry out a review of its original decision before you can ask for a review by the Information Commissioner. There is no fee for a review if it relates to personal records.

18 Lower Leeson Street, Dublin 2

Tel: 01 639 5689

LoCall: 1890 253 238

Email: info@oic.ie

www.oic.ie

Office of the Ombudsman for Children (OCO)

This office advises the government on children and young people. It also does research and handles complaints. If you are under 18 and have been negatively affected by a decision made by a State or public body you can make a complaint to the OCO. The Ombudsman can look at complaints against a wide range of bodies including Government departments, certain schools, hospitals, public bodies or organisations providing services on behalf of the State. You can complain directly if you are under 18 or your parents can make a complaint on your behalf.

Millennium House, 52-56 Great Strand
Street, Dublin 1, D01F5P8

Freephone: 1800 202 040

Office: ococomplaint@oco.ie

Tel: 01 865 6800

Email: oco@oco.ie

www.oco.ie/itsyourright.ie

General Office of the Ombudsman

The Office of the Ombudsman examines complaints from members of the public who feel they have been unfairly treated by certain public bodies.

18 Lower Leeson St, Dublin 2

Tel: 01 639 5600

Email: ombudsman@ombudsman.gov.ie

www.ombudsman.gov.ie

Legal advice

You can seek legal advice from a solicitor if you have a legal query or require legal guidance or representation in legal proceedings or need assistance with legal documentation.

You have a right to a lawyer if you are brought to court by the Gardaí and if you cannot afford one a lawyer will be given to you by the judge under the Criminal Legal Aid Scheme (often referred to as Free Legal Aid). If you are under 18 and you need a lawyer for some other reason you need to have another adult, usually a parent/guardian, contact one on your behalf. Below are some useful contact details.

Legal Aid Board

The Legal Aid Board is responsible for legal aid if people can't afford legal assistance. It provides legal aid in relation to civil issues such as personal injury or applications for asylum. It does not deal with criminal issues.

Head Office: Quay Street,
Cahirciveen, Co. Kerry
Tel: 066 947 1000
Email: info@legalaidboard.ie
www.legalaidboard.ie

Free Legal Advice Centres (FLAC)

This non-governmental organisation works towards achieving social justice. The organisation works across a range of issues and provides some basic, free legal services to the public.

85/86 Dorset Street Upper,
Dublin 1, D01 P9Y3
Tel: 01 874 5690
Lo-call: 1890 350 250
www.flac.ie

The Law Society of Ireland

This is the representative and regulatory body for solicitors. If you are looking for a solicitor or have a complaint about your solicitor, you can contact the Law Society.

Blackhall Place, Dublin 7
Tel: 01 672 4800
Email: general@lawsociety.ie
www.lawsociety.ie

Contacts

Some solicitors' firms who have expertise in criminal defence include the following:

Sheehan and Partners

Cunningham House,
130 Francis Street, Dublin 8
Tel: 01 453 3477
After Hours: 086 048 1200
Email: info@gsandco.ie
www.sheehanandpartners.ie

Michael Finucane Solicitors

Third Floor – Merchant's Hall
25/26 Merchant's Quay, Dublin 8
Tel: 01 809 0007
Email: info@michaelfinucane.ie

Michael J. Staines & Co Solicitors

Lincoln House, Lincoln Lane,
Smithfield, Dublin 7
Tel: 01 873 1366
Emergency: 086 254 0442
Email: info@michaelstaines.ie
www.michaelstaines.ie

KOD Lyons

Ushers Court, 31–33 Ushers Quay,
Dublin 8, Ireland
Tel: 01 679 0780
Emergency: 086 085 9800
Fax: 01 675 9588
E-mail: info@kodlyons.ie

Fahy Bambury Solicitors

153 North King Street
Smithfield
Dublin 7
Tel: 01 874 5800
Email: info@fahybambury.com

M. E. Hanahoe Solicitors

Sunlight Chambers
21 Parliament Street
Dublin 2
Tel: 01 677 2353
Emergency: 087 621 7743

Shalom Binchy & Co.

118 The Capel Building
Mary's Abbey
Dublin 7
Email: info@sbinchy.ie
Tel: 01 872 9485
Emergency: 086 383 9040

MacGuill & Co. Solicitors

Address: 34 Charles Street West
Dublin 7
D07 H26A
Tel: 01 878 7022
Email: info@macguill.ie

Bar Council

This is the representative and regulatory body for barristers. If you are looking for a barrister (a lawyer who can represent you in court) or have a complaint about your barrister, you can contact the Bar Council.

Bar Council Administration Office
Four Courts, Dublin 7
Tel: 01 817 5000
Email: barcouncil@lawlibrary.ie
www.lawlibrary.ie



Public services

Citizens Information Board

The Citizens Information Board is a public service information service that provides a wide range of detailed information about your rights.

The Board provides information through a network of over 250 Citizens Information Centres (CICs) located throughout the country and from their website. CICs can provide you with information or direct you to another appropriate body or mechanism which may be able to help you. You should call the helpline or visit their website to find the closest centre to you.
www.citizensinformationboard.ie

The Citizens Information Phone Service (CIPS) is funded and supported by the Citizens Information Board to provide a comprehensive and confidential telephone information service. CIPS can be contacted by phone from 9am to 8pm, Monday to Friday, on 0761 074 000.

Contacts

Government agencies

Department of Justice and Equality
51 St. Stephen's Green, Dublin 2, D02 HK52
Phone: 01 602 8201
Lo-call: 1890 221 227
www.justice.ie

Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade
Iveagh House
80 St Stephen's Green
Dublin 2
D02 VY53
Tel: 01 408 2000
www.dfa.ie

Youth participation

Comhairle na nÓg and Dáil na nÓg
Comhairle na nÓg are child and youth councils operating in 34 local authorities around Ireland. They enable young people to have a voice on the services, policies and issues that affect them in their local area. Each year Comhairle na nÓg sends representatives to Dáil na nÓg, the national parliament for children between 12 and 18 year olds. You can find your nearest Comhairle na nÓg through their website.

Administrator direct line: 01 647 3000
Email: citizenparticipation@dcya.gov.ie
www.comhairlenanog.ie

National Youth Council of Ireland (NYCI)

The National Youth Council of Ireland is the representative body for around 50 voluntary youth organisations in Ireland, and uses its collective experience to act on issues that impact on young people. A full list of member organisations is listed on the NYCI website.

3 Montague Street, Dublin 2
Tel: 01 478 4122
Email: info@nyci.ie
www.nyci.ie

Children's Rights Alliance

The Children's Rights Alliance is a partnership of non-governmental organisations working to secure the rights of children in Ireland. The alliance campaigns for the implementation of the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child. You can contact the alliance if you have any questions about your rights as a child or young person.

7 Red Cow Lane, Smithfield, Dublin 7
Tel: 01 662 9400
Email: info@childrensrights.ie
help@childrensrights.ie
www.childrensrights.ie

On the web

Irish Internet Hotline

The Irish Internet Hotline provides you with a way to securely and confidentially report illegal online content and activity. You can make a report by email, post, telephone or by using an app (available on their website).

Unit 25 Sandyford Office Park,
Blackthorn Avenue, Dublin 18
Tel: 1890 610 710
Email: info@hotline.ie
www.hotline.ie+

Disability rights

National Disability Authority

The National Disability Authority is the independent state body that provides expert advice on disability policy and practice to the Government.

25 Clyde Road, Dublin 4
Tel: 01 608 0400
Email: nda@nda.ie
www.nda.ie

Disability Federation of Ireland

The Disability Federation of Ireland (DFI) is a national support organisation for over 130 voluntary disability organisations in Ireland who provide services to people with disabilities. The DFI provides a range of services, including information, training, research and advocacy.

Fumbally Court, Fumbally Lane, Dublin 8
Tel: 01 454 7978
Email: info@disability-federation.ie
www.disability-federation.ie

Enable Ireland

Enable Ireland provides free services to children and adults with disabilities and their families from 40 locations in 14 counties.

32F Rosemount Park Drive, Rosemount
Business Park, Ballycoolin Road, Dublin 11
Tel: 01 872 7155
Email: communications@enableireland.ie
www.enableireland.ie

Contacts

Inclusion Ireland

Inclusion Ireland represents over 160 organisations and campaigns for changes in services and legislation that will improve the quality of life and participation of people with an intellectual disability in Irish society.

Unit C2, The Steelworks, Foley Street,
Dublin 1

Tel: 01 855 9891

Email: info@inclusionireland.ie

www.inclusionireland.ie

Surveillance

Surveillance Complaints Referee

If you have a complaint about suspected surveillance activities, you can contact the complaints referee.

Judge Carroll Moran, Complaints Referee
c/o President of the Circuit Court
Four Courts, Dublin 7

Media Complaints

Broadcasting Authority of Ireland
This is the independent regulator for radio and television broadcasters in Ireland.

2-5 Warrington Place, Dublin 2

Tel: 01 644 1200

Email: info@bai.ie

www.bai.ie

Office of the Press Ombudsman

The Press Ombudsman investigates complaints against members of the press.

1-3 Westmoreland Street, Dublin 2

LoCall: 1890 208 080

Email: info@pressombudsman.ie

www.pressombudsman.ie

Press Council of Ireland

The Press Council has developed a code of practice for those working in newspapers and periodicals. The Council appoints the Press Ombudsman, makes decisions in complex cases and decides on appeals from the Press Ombudsman.

1-3 Westmoreland Street, Dublin 2

Tel: 01 648 9130

Email: info@presscouncil.ie

Prison

Irish Penal Reform Trust

This organisation campaigns for the rights of people in prison and for prison reform.

MACRO, 1 Green Street,
Dublin 7, Ireland

Tel: 01 874 1400

Email: info@iprt.ie

www.iprt.ie

Immigration & asylum

Irish Naturalisation and Immigration Service

This is a 'one stop shop' for matters relating to asylum, immigration, citizenship and visas.

13-14 Burgh Quay, Dublin 2
Tel: 01 616 7700
LoCall: 1890 551 500
www.inis.gov.ie

Garda National Immigration Bureau (GNIB)

This section of the Garda Síochána deals with immigration issues. It registers non-national residents of Ireland, issuing GNIB ID cards. It also conducts border control checks, and investigations relating to illegal immigrations and human trafficking.

13-14 Burgh Quay, Dublin 2
Tel: 01 666 9130/666 9101
Email: gnib_dv@garda.ie
www.garda.ie

Office of the Refugee Applications Commissioner (ORAC)

This office investigates applications from persons seeking refugee status, subsidiary protection and family reunification.

Public Office hours: 08.45 to 16.00 Mon - Fri
79-83 Lower Mount, St. Dublin 2
Tel: 01 602 8000
Email: oracmail@orac.ie
www.orac.ie

Irish Refugee Council

This non-governmental organisation advocates on behalf of refugees and asylum seekers. It operates a Drop-In Centre for those who need help or guidance about the asylum process, as well as a Law Centre.

37 Killarney Street, Mountjoy, Dublin 1
Tel: 01 7645854
Email: info@irishrefugeecouncil.ie
Law centre tel: 01 764 5854
lawcentre@irishrefugeecouncil.ie

International Protection Appeals Tribunal

The Refugee Appeals Tribunal decides appeals of those asylum seekers whose applications for refugee status has not been recommended by the Officer of the Refugee Applications Commissioner.

6/7 Hanover Street East
Dublin D02 W320
Tel: 01 474 8400
Email: info@protectionappeals.ie
www.protectionappeals.ie

Contacts

Refugee Legal Services

This section of the Legal Aid Board provides confidential and independent legal services to people applying for asylum, and on immigration and deportation matters.

Kerry: Quay Street, Cahirciveen, Co. Kerry
V23 RD36.

Tel: 066 947 1000

Locall: 1890 615 200

Email: info@legalaidboard.ie

Dublin: 48/49 North Brunswick Street,
Georges Lane, Dublin 7

Freephone: 1800 238 343

Tel: (01) 646 9600

Email: info@legalaidboard.ie

Cork: North Quay House, Popes Quay, Cork.

Tel: (021) 455 1686

Email: corksouth@legalaidboard.ie

Criminal Legal Aid Section

Dublin:

48-49 North Brunswick Street,
Georges Lane, Smithfield

Dublin 7, D08 PEOC

Tel: 01 646 9644

Galway:

9 Francis Street, Galway, H91 NS53

Tel: (091) 561 650

Email: galwaylawcentre@legalaidboard.ie

Irish Refugee Council

This non-governmental organisation advocates on behalf of refugees and asylum seekers. It operates a Drop-In Centre for those who need help or guidance about the asylum process, as well as a Law Centre.

37 Killarney Street, Mountjoy, Dublin 1

Tel: 01 764 5854

Email: info@irishrefugeecouncil.ie

Law centre: 01 764 5854

lawcentre@irishrefugeecouncil.ie

Immigrant Council of Ireland

This non-governmental organisation promotes the rights of migrants through information, legal advice, advocacy, lobbying, research and training. The Council is also an independent law centre.

2 St Andrew Street, Dublin 2

Tel: (01) 674 0200

Email: admin@immigrantcouncil.ie

www.immigrantcouncil.ie

The justice system

An Garda Síochána

The Irish police service.

Garda HQ: Phoenix Park, Dublin 8

Tel: 01 666 0000

Garda Confidential Helpline: 1800 666 111

Emergencies: 999

www.garda.ie

(For complaints about the Gardaí see the Garda Síochána Ombudsman on page 25)

Director of Public Prosecutions (DPP)

The DPP is in charge of prosecutions on behalf of the state and the people of Ireland.

Infirmery Road,
Dublin 7, D07 FHN8

Tel: 01 858 8500

www.dppireland.ie

Irish Youth Justice Service

The Irish Youth Justice Service has responsibility for leading and driving reform in the area of youth justice. It is staffed by officials from Department of Children and Youth Affairs and the Department of Justice and Equality. Its website contains a range of information, including on the Garda Diversion Programme and restorative justice projects.

50-58 Baggot St Lower,

Dublin 2, D02 XW14

Tel: 01 647 3000

Email: iyjs@justice.ie

www.iyjs.ie

Young Persons' Probations Service (YPP)

The Young Persons Probation (YPP) is a specialised division of the Probation Service established to work with children and young people aged 12-18 years who come before the Courts or who are in the Children Detention Schools/Centre. It works closely with the Irish Youth Justice Service.

Haymarket, Smithfield, Dublin 7

Tel: 01 817 3600

Email: psinfo@probation.ie

www.pprobation.ie

Contacts

Courts Service

The Courts Service manages the courts in Ireland. It provides information on the courts system to the public, manages and maintain court buildings and provides facilities for users of the courts.

15 - 24 Phoenix Street North
Smithfield, Dublin 7
Tel: 01 888 6000
www.courts.ie

Crime Victims Helpline

The Crime Victims Helpline supports, informs and empowers victims of crime and all those impacted by crime. It provides information about the criminal justice system and referrals to other resources that may help.

Opening hours:
Monday- 10.00 a.m. to 7.30 p.m.
Tuesday to Friday- 10.00 a.m. to 5.00 p.m.
Saturday and Bank Holidays- 2.00 p.m. to 4.00 p.m.
Sunday- Closed

Outside of these hours you can leave a message and your call will be returned.

Freephone: 116 006
Email: info@crimevictimshelpline.ie
Text: 085 133 7711
www.crimevictimshelpline.ie

Additional contacts

Frontline Defenders

A non-governmental organisation which works to promote the rights of human rights defenders around the world who are at risk.

2nd Floor, Grattan House, Temple Road,
Blackrock, Co. Dublin, A94 FA39
Tel: 01 212 3750
Email: info@frontlinedefenders.org

Comhlamh

Comhlamh is a non-governmental group focused on action for global justice.

12 Parliament Street, Dublin
Tel: 01 478 3490
Email: info@comhlamh.com
www.comhlamh.org

Union of Students in Ireland

The Union of Students in Ireland supports third level students throughout Ireland.

14 Mount Street Upper, Dublin 2, D02 EY24
Tel: 01 709 9300
Email: info@usi.ie
www.usi.ie

Activist Legal Support Network

The Activist legal support network is an independent group with a focus on supporting protesters seeking social change.

activistlegalsupportireland@riseup.net
www.Activistlegalsupportireland.org

Know your rights:

The Right to Protest

Know Your Rights is a public information project of the Irish Council for Civil Liberties (ICCL), designed to inform people in clear and accessible language about their rights under various key areas of the law in Ireland. This is the seventh guide in the Know Your Rights series. This, and other guides in the Know Your Rights series, are also available for print and download free of charge on our webpage:

www.iccl.ie/know-your-rights-2/.

This guide provides information in plain language about your rights when organising a protest, your rights during a protest and your rights after a protest, including if you have been arrested.

This guide was researched and written by **Brian Storan BL**, **Damien Coffey** of Sheehan Solicitors and **Doireann Ansbro** of ICCL.

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Statement of the law as of December 2019
