



An Bille um Chlár Breithiúnas Foréigin Baile, 2026
Domestic Violence Judgments Register Bill 2026

Meabhrán Mínitheach agus Airgeadais
Explanatory and Financial Memorandum



**AN BILLE UM CHLÁR BREITHIÚNAS FORÉIGIN BAILE,
2026
DOMESTIC VIOLENCE JUDGMENTS REGISTER BILL 2026**

EXPLANATORY AND FINANCIAL MEMORANDUM

Purpose of the Bill

The purpose of this Bill is to provide for the publication of judgments relating to serious domestic violence offences, as a step in the administration of justice in public in accordance with Article 34.1 of the Constitution. The Bill inserts a new Part 3A – Setting up of register of judgments in relation to domestic violence, into the Domestic Violence Act 2018.

By ensuring that relevant convictions for serious domestic violence offences are effectively publicised as part of the trial process, a publicly available Register of Judgments will assist people who are in a relationship or considering a relationship with a person to ascertain whether they have a history of serious domestic violence convictions.

Provisions of the Bill

Section 1

Section 1 amends the Domestic Violence Act 2018 by inserting Part 3A after Part 3 of the said Act.

Part 3A provides that the Courts Service shall establish and maintain a register of judgments to be made available to the public on its website, which will be known as the Domestic Violence Judgments Register. Inclusion of a judgment in the Register is at the discretion of the Court, subject to the victim's consent. The Part provides for certain personal data to be included in the judgment. It also allows a convicted person to apply to the Court for the judgment to be removed from the Register after three years from the date of conviction if the conviction did not result in imprisonment, and from the date of release from prison if the conviction resulted in imprisonment. It also sets out the list of offences which come within the scope of the Register and provides for a definition of relevant person, being a current or former spouse or partner of the convicted person.

Section 2

Section 2 amends section 7 of the Criminal Law (Rape) Act 1981 to ensure the contents of the section do not preclude the publication of a judgment in the Domestic Violence Register in accordance with this Bill.

Section 3

Section 3 amends section 10A of the Non-Fatal Offences Against the Person Act 1997 to ensure the contents of the section do not preclude the publication of a judgment in the Domestic Violence Register in accordance with this Bill.

Section 4

Section 4 amends section 5 of the Harassment, Harmful Communications and Related Offences Act 2020 1997 to ensure the contents of the section do not preclude the publication of a judgment in the Domestic Violence Register in accordance with this Bill.

Financial Implications

There is no cost to the Exchequer expected as a result of this proposal. The Courts Services already operate and manage a system of publication of judgments online, within which the Domestic Violence Register of Judgments will sit. It is envisaged that the costs associated with the implementation of this Bill will be met within its existing operational budget.

*An Roinn Dlí agus Cirt, Gnóthaí Baile agus Imirce
Mheithimh, 2026.*