

Quality Service Charter



Mission Statement

To provide on behalf of the People of Ireland a prosecution service that is independent, fair and effective.

Who are we?

The Office of the Director of Public Prosecutions was established by the Prosecution of Offences Act, 1974. The Director of Public Prosecutions is referred to as the DPP. The Office of the DPP has three main Divisions:

- **Directing Division** consists of barristers and solicitors who examine criminal investigation files and decide whether or not a prosecution should be taken.
- **Solicitors Division** consists of solicitors and legal executives who prepare and conduct cases on behalf of the DPP in all Courts sitting in Dublin.
- **Policy & Research Unit** consists of lawyers and legal researcher(s) who develop prosecution policies and advise on legal policy documents referred to the Office for consideration.
- **Administration Division** provides the organisational, infrastructural, administrative and information services required by the Office and also provides support to both the Directing and Solicitors Divisions.

What do we do?

The DPP decides whether to charge people with criminal offences, and what the charges should be. Once charges are brought the Office of the DPP is in charge of the prosecution case.

The Chief Prosecution Solicitor acts as solicitor to the DPP and is head of the Solicitors Division in the DPP's Office. The staff of the Solicitors Division represent the Director in all courts in Dublin. Local state solicitors represent the DPP in courts outside of Dublin.



What we do NOT do

The DPP's Office does NOT:

- investigate crimes - crimes are investigated by the Garda Síochána.
- give legal advice to members of the public - those seeking such advice should consult their own legal advisor.

What you can expect from us

The DPP and her staff are committed to providing a quality prosecution service. In your dealings with the Office of the Director of Public Prosecutions you can expect:

Independence

Independence is a core value of the Office. The DPP is independent when carrying out her job. The Government or the Garda Síochána cannot make the DPP prosecute any particular case nor can they stop her doing so.

Fairness

The Office of the DPP operates to the highest professional standards and treats all those with whom it has dealings fairly, equally and consistently.

Careful consideration

The decision to prosecute or not to prosecute is very important. If persons are prosecuted it can do them a lot of damage even if they are later found not guilty. A criminal trial is very stressful for all concerned, particularly the victim. At the same time, a decision not to prosecute can cause great stress and upset to a victim. So the decision whether or not to prosecute has to be very carefully considered.

Confidentiality

All matters referred to the DPP's Office will be dealt with in an appropriate and confidential manner. In most cases, when the DPP decides not to prosecute the reasons for her decision are

given to the Garda Síochána, or other investigating agency, and are kept confidential. The DPP does not give reasons for her decisions in public. This policy has been supported by a number of decisions of the Superior Courts in recent years.

However, in cases involving a fatality which occurred on or after 22 October 2008, the DPP will at the request of the family or household of the victim, give a reason for her decision not to prosecute.

Timely Action

The DPP and her staff will deal with all files, enquiries and other matters referred to her Office in a timely manner.

Review

If you are a victim or an accused person, or a member of their family, or their lawyer, doctor or social worker you can request the DPP to reconsider a decision which has been taken. You can do this by sending a written request to the DPP's Office.

Courtesy & Respect

The staff of the DPP's Office will treat all those with whom we have dealings with courtesy and respect.

Sensitivity

The DPP's Office is committed to treating victims and witnesses with the utmost consideration and sensitivity. The DPP will have regard to any view expressed by victims of crime when making decisions in specific cases whether or not to prosecute.

When prosecuting offences in court we will:

- work with the Garda Síochána to ensure that victims of crime are kept fully informed of developments in the case, especially if the offence is one of a violent or sexual nature.
- explain, wherever possible, the court processes involved and make available our information guide on 'Going to Court as a Witness'.



- at the request of a victim of crime, facilitate a pre-trial meeting with counsel and a representative from the Solicitors Division of the DPP's Office. The purpose of this meeting is to explain the trial process to you and answer any questions you may have. It should be pointed out, however, that the Director's representative cannot discuss evidence with witnesses in advance of the case.

Appeals

In cases tried in the Circuit, Central Criminal or Special Criminal Court the DPP can apply to the Court of Criminal Appeal to review a sentence where she considers the sentence to be unduly lenient. If you are a victim, or a member of their family, or their lawyer, doctor or social worker you can request the DPP to appeal the leniency of a sentence handed down by the courts.

Information

The Office of the DPP provides easily accessible information on the work of the Office through publication of information guides, Annual Reports, Prosecution Guidelines and other publications, all of which are available on the Office website at www.dppireland.ie.

Under section 46(1)(b) of the Freedom of Information Act, 1997, only records concerning the general administration of the Office can be made public. This means that the public cannot obtain information from files relating to individual criminal cases.

Official Language Equality

All publications issued by the DPP's Office are published in both Irish and English and our website is bi-lingual. We will also assist you to conduct your business through the Irish language.

Complaints Policy

If you have a complaint about how we work you can write to the DPP's Office and your complaint will be dealt with promptly.

Contact Details

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