

LEGAL COUNSELLING

You can ask for legal counselling, free of charge, during the International Protection procedure. This includes assistance in lodging of your application.

Legal counselling means that you can receive explanations on:

- your rights and obligations
- the different procedures
- legal issues.

Legal counselling is available in Citywest Convention Centre through the Legal Aid Board.

What is Legal Counselling

Legal counselling includes guidance, information and assistance relating to your application and the procedural steps for International Protection. **It does not include advice.**

You should know that:

- Legal Counsellors will not recommend a certain course of action for you to take.
- Legal Counsellors will not formulate an opinion on your application
- Legal counsellors do not have access to your file and will not take specific details about your case.

Legal Counselling is separate from legal representation and stops at the point a lawyer is appointed to advise and represent you.

It is provided by Legal Counsellors who are not lawyers. Legal advice and representation (also known as legal aid) is provided by lawyers where you apply for legal aid. You should make an application for advice and representation to the Legal Aid Board, as soon as possible. You can apply for legal aid at Citywest Convention Centre at the Legal Aid Board Citywest Counselling Service or at one of our three Law Centres in (1) Dublin (Smithfield) (2) Cork (Pope's Quay) and Galway (Woodquay).

It is your responsibility to seek legal counselling.

Stages of Legal Counselling

Legal counselling is available to you in two stages.

Firstly:

1. Video based Legal Counselling

Explains what legal counselling is and provides an overview of each procedure that may apply to your application for international protection. As you progress through the international protection application process, you should rewatch the

videos that explain the procedure(s) that the IPO decides applies to your application.

You can register for legal counselling by using the QR Code below, by attending at the LAB Citywest Legal Counselling Service front desk or online at

<https://internationalprotection.legalaidboard.ie/>



Secondly:

2. Clinics

Clinics will take place each day (*Monday to Friday, 10am - 4pm*) in confined floor space in Citywest where you will have the opportunity to ask questions and seek further explanations.

The clinics will have legal clerks on hand, with translations services, to answer your questions and provide assistance to you.

Your attendance at clinics is not a requirement but is encouraged to ensure that you understand the processes, and your rights and obligations

You can find the clinic schedule, which will be updated every week, by using the QR Code below or by going to the website

<https://internationalprotection.legalaidboard.ie/>



Legal advice and representation

Legal advice and representation (also known as legal aid) is provided by lawyers. You should apply for legal aid as soon as possible to receive advice and representation. You can apply for legal aid at Citywest Convention Centre at the Legal Aid Board Citywest Counselling Service or at one of our three Law Centres in (1) Dublin (Smithfield) (2) Cork (Pope's Quay) and Galway (Woodquay).