Year: 2026 **Vol:** 01 **Case No:** 33

Categories: self- representation; interpreter; CFA involvement

Safety order refused but maintenance ordered

A judge in a rural town refused a safety order to a woman who said her husband would "bother" her and their teenage son. Both parties were self-represented.

"We need a safety order because he will try to bother us, both of us," said the applicant wife. "I told him not to be so insistent with our son but he tried to abduct him," the woman added. There was no application for access.

The wife told the Court that the husband had said she was mentally unstable and she was then contacted by Tusla. She gave evidence her son told his father that he did not want to see him and to give him some space.

The woman told the judge she had left home and was living somewhere else now.

The Court heard both parties were working. The judge asked if the husband was paying her maintenance and the wife replied that he had not paid any since the previous year.

The husband, speaking through an interpreter, denied the wife's 's accusations. He told the Court that they had not been separated 11 months, as she had claimed, and they had been on two holidays in that time.

The respondent said they had contributed to everything together up until the previous December when the wife left the house. He said he had paid the rent and for whatever else was needed in the house. The wife had paid the utility bills, the Court was told.

The husband said the applicant told him in December that she wanted to get a divorce and left the house at the end of January. He said the wife was influencing the child to not talk to him and that was the reason he contacted Tusla.

The judge refused the safety order but said he would make an order for maintenance of €50 a week and 50 per cent of expenses.

"I don't think there is enough for a safety order at the moment," said the judge.

"I can't live with €200 a month," the husband said. The judge told him he could make an appeal to the Circuit Court or sell some property he owned.