Year: 2026 **Vol:** 01 **Case No:** 25

Categories: non-appearance by respondent; divorce application pending; alcohol abuse

Safety order granted where divorce application pending

A District Court judge in a rural town granted a safety order for three years. The applicant wife was present in court and was represented by a solicitor. There was no appearance by or on behalf of the respondent husband. The judge was satisfied that he was on notice of the wife's application as he had been in court on the last occasion and had been informed of the adjourned date at that stage.

The wife said that she had a previous safety order against the husband which had expired. She said that they would be in court two months later as they had been given a date for the hearing of their divorce application in the Circuit Court.

The wife said that the parties were no longer living together but matters had escalated in the previous four months. She said he often came to the house shouting and roaring at her and abused her with very bad language. She said she was afraid for her own safety and that of her children. She said the husband had attended rehab for alcohol addiction, but he was still drinking.

The wife said that the husband had no contact whatsoever with the children and he had not seen them in some time. The judge granted a safety order for three years which applied to the wife and the parties' children. The judge told the wife to call the Gardaí if he was abusive to her again.