Year: 2026 **Vol:** 01 **Case No:** 23

Categories: threats; short relationship; alcohol abuse; self-harm

Protection order against man following short relationship

A District Court judge in a regional town granted a protection order to an applicant woman against a man she had met on an internet dating site. The applicant woman said she had been in a short relationship with the respondent man for approximately five weeks.

She said one week previously he had turned up at her house in an inebriated state. She said he was very aggressive and she felt very scared, so she offered to drive him to the train station so he could get a train home. She said he put his foot to her door and would not let her leave. She eventually freed herself and fled to a friend's house where she stayed the night. The following day she returned to her home, and the man was still there. She said she then drove him to the train station, and she made it very clear to him that she never wanted to see him again.

The woman said that three days later she returned home from work and she saw the man slumped in her garden shed. She said she was terrified and she asked a family member to come and help her. When they went into the shed, they saw he was unconscious. He had taken an overdose and was surrounded by empty bottles of medication. She said he also left a note addressed to her. The woman said the ambulance did not arrive for two hours, and they eventually took him away. She said she was applying for a protection order as she lived alone, and she was terrified he would come back to her home again.

The judge granted a protection order returnable to a date approximately six months later. He directed the Gardaí to serve the protection order on the man.