



Support Bubbles and Access and Custody Arrangements

Information on 'Support Bubbles' and Access and Custody Arrangements – From Gov.ie

Support Bubbles:

The most recent restrictions which commenced on October 22nd 2020 allow people in certain situations to form a support bubble with one other household to help with isolation. You can form a support bubble if you are living alone with children under the age of 18 or if you don't live with your children but you share parenting or custody arrangements. Our current understanding is that access visits are separate to support bubbles and you can form a support bubble with another household in addition to facilitating access. Further information please see:

<https://www.gov.ie/en/publication/3516d-support-bubbles/#who-can-form-a-support-bubble>

Who can form a support bubble?

You can form a support bubble with another household:

- if you are living alone with children under the age of 18
- if you live alone
- if you share parenting or custody arrangements
- if you live with an adult you provide care for (for example a dependent adult relation or a partner with dementia)
- if you live by yourself and have a carer or carers who support you, including a live-in carer

Access and Custody Arrangements and Travel Restrictions

On 22nd October regulations in relation to COVID-19 travel which apply until 1st December 2020 has provided exemptions for people involved in travelling for access visits.

The relevant section and wording are here:

Regulations entitled Health Act 1947 (Section 31A – Temporary Restrictions) (Covid-19) (No.8) Regulations 2020

5 (1) Subject to paragraph (2), an applicable person shall not travel from his or her county of residence to another county or to a state other than the State without reasonable excuse.

(2) Without prejudice to the generality of what constitutes a reasonable excuse for the purposes of paragraph (1), a reasonable excuse for travelling includes travelling in order to:

(n) if the applicable person is a parent or guardian of a child, or a person having a right of access to a child, give effect to arrangements for access to the child by –

(i) the applicable person, or

(ii) another person who is –

(I) a parent or guardian of the child, or

(II) a person having a right of access to the child

The regulations also provide for a person who needs to fulfil legal obligations, where required:

(l) fulfil a legal obligation (including attending court, satisfying bail conditions, or participating in ongoing legal proceedings), attend a court office where required, initiate emergency legal proceedings or execute essential legal documents

The definition of a ‘household’ in the regulations in relation to attending events is outlined below:

6 (3) (c) where the event is attended by –

(i) a child, and

(ii) a parent or guardian of such child, who does not ordinarily reside with that child, the parent or guardian, as the case may be, and the child shall be deemed to reside in the same household.

You can access the full regulations [here](#) and updates to legislation can be found [here](#) as changes are announced. If you are worried about travelling for access under the current restrictions then you might want to save this information to your phone or print out the regulations to have with you in case you meet a Garda checkpoint.

Stay safe, be well!

