

**The Courts Service**

## **Registered Service Dog policy**



**An tSeirbhís Chúirteanna**  
Courts Service



**Version 1**

**13.03.25**

## Registered Service Dog Policy

The Courts Service is committed to meeting our obligations under the Safety, Health and Welfare at Work Act, 2005, to protect the health and safety of all members of staff while attending their workplace. To that end the Courts Service has adopted a policy governing the conditions under which Registered Service Dogs may be permitted entry into any Courts Service buildings or premises. No other animals may be permitted to enter the buildings or premises.

This policy does not apply to animals used in the course of duty by Gardai or other members of the emergency services.

### Registered Service Dog

A Service Dog is defined under Irish law as a highly trained dog that is specifically trained to assist a person with a disability. For a dog to be recognised as a Service Dog, it must be fully trained and registered with one of the following, or a U.K. or other international equivalent:

- Irish Guide Dogs for The Blind
- Dogs for the Disabled
- Autism Assistance Dogs Ireland
- International Guide Dog Federation
- Canine Partners (UK)
- Dog A.I.D. (UK)
- Guide Dogs UK
- Hearing Dogs for Deaf People (UK)
- Medical Detection Dogs (UK)
- Support Dogs (UK)

All trained and Registered Service Dogs are welcome to access Courts Service buildings and grounds in the company of their registered owner. Service Dog owners are expected to be able to provide sufficient documentary evidence that their dogs meet the above criteria.

In instances where the animal is not wearing an identifiable harness or branded lead, Courts Service staff members may seek clarification that the animal is a trained Registered Service Dog, before admittance to the Courts Service building is allowed. Where no certification recognised by the Courts Service can be produced then the dog will not be permitted entry to the court building or its grounds.

### Emotional Support Animals

Emotional Support Animals which are not Registered Service Dogs accredited to one of the above organisations, are not legally recognised under Irish Law. As a result, they are currently not permitted to enter any Courts Service buildings or grounds for health and safety reasons.

Staff members at all Courts Service public offices may ask for evidence that any animal accompanying an individual is a Registered Service Dog before permitting it

to enter the premises or building. Entry will be refused to any animals that are not Registered Service Dogs.

### Disability Access Officer

If you have any questions ahead of your visit, please contact our Disability Access Officer by email at [accessofficer@courts.ie](mailto:accessofficer@courts.ie) or via phone at (01) 888 6000.