



2010 was a very busy year for Amen. Following on from the record number of contacts received to the helpline in January, we received an increasing number of contacts in September, October and November.

This was partly as a result of the recognition we received through the media; with interviews on RTE's Ear to the Ground, TV3's Ireland AM, Middy and MidWeek programmes. Amen also worked very closely with the writers of RTE's Fair City and aided them in the storyline of male domestic abuse between Damien and Suzanne.

Information on the Domestic Violence Act 1996

The **Domestic Violence Act 1996** provides for the protection, safety and welfare of:

- Married couples
- Cohabiting couples
- Parents
- Children
- Any other person who lives in a domestic relationship

Protection Available

Under the Domestic Violence Act the following orders may be obtained:

- Protection Order
- Safety Order
- Interim Barring Order
- Barring Order

Who can apply?

- A spouse
- An unmarried partner
- A parent
- Relatives who live together
- The Health Service Executive

Protection Order

While you are waiting for the court to decide on an application for a Safety or Barring Order, the court can give you

- An immediate order called a Protection Order
- A protection order has the same effect as a Safety Order
- It is only intended to last until the court decides on your case
- It is temporary

Safety Order

This order prevents:

- The offender from committing further violence
- Threatening violence, against the **applicant** and/or his/her dependents
- The respondent is not required to leave the home

Interim Barring Order

If there is evidence of **immediate risk** of significant harm to the person an Interim Barring Order may be granted.

- This order can be granted **without** the knowledge of the alleged offender.
- A full court hearing of the facts must take place within eight working days of the Interim Barring Order being made.

Barring Order

A Barring Order requires the defendant to leave the family home. The District Court may grant a Barring Order for up to three years.

Once a Barring Order is granted, the offender must:

- Leave the family home
- Not use, or threaten to use, violence against the applicant
- Not molest the applicant or put in fear
- Not be in the area where the applicant lives

What to do when an order is granted?

- Show order to local Gardaí
- Do not give them your order
- A copy of your order will be sent to your local Superintendent

The Orders

- Take effect from the time the respondent is notified
- Can be delivered verbally, together with a copy of the order
- Are considered to be served, if the respondent is in court on the day
- Can be sent to the respondent by ordinary post
- Can be served on the respondent by the Gardaí, if they are instructed to do so by the judge.

Fair City

In late 2009, Amen was approached by the writers of Fair City, to aid in the development of their story between fictional husband and wife Damien and Suzanne Halpin.

To ensure an accurate portrayal of the violence, the writers were in continuous contact with the Manager and Support Workers here in the office.

Declan Keaveney and a client of Amen, spent time speaking with Maclean Burke (Damien) and other cast and crew members of Fair City, to give them an insight into the effects that domestic abuse has on a man. They received a great reception from the cast and crew members.

When the storyline went to air, Amen noticed an immediate increase in contacts to the service and an increased interest from other media sources, such as national and local radio stations as well as newspapers.



Recent Events

- Amen staff held an information stand at the HSE Eurospital Football Tournament in Dublin, where health worker representatives from all over Europe were present.



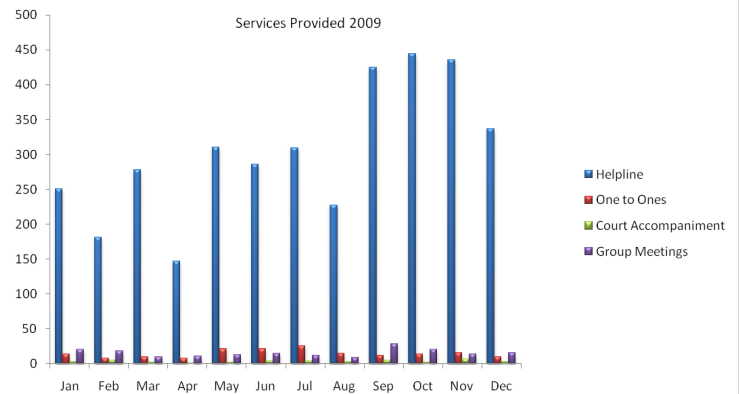
- Fathers Count Course was held in October in Amen in conjunction with Springboard Navan. All of the men who attended the course found it to be a great help and very informative.
- In recent weeks Amen held a Family Law Seminar with solicitor Donna Kerrigan. In excess of 20 men attended on the night and had questions answered directly from a solicitor at no cost to them. One man said "I thought it was interesting listening to everyone and their situations. I really learned a lot"

2009 Annual Report

In September 2010 Amen launched the first ever Annual Report. The report found that in 2009, 3644 people contacted the Amen service.

The majority of these contacts were through our helpline, but clients also availed of one to one meetings with support workers, group meetings and court accompaniment.

The launch was held in the Amen Office, in Navan and was attended by local and national media, along with local dignitaries and clients.



Student Experience

Dear Amen,

Thank you so much for the opportunity to work in Amen for a week.

It has been a great experience for me, from both an administration and professional point of view. To see how staff and support workers treat clients with respect and total confidentiality. I also enjoyed working in an office like atmosphere and was amazed by how many phone calls and emails Amen receives.

I have thoroughly enjoyed my week and thank you again for having me here.

Laura,
Transition Year Student.

Amen Services

- Confidential Helpline 046 9023718
Out of Hours 086 7941880
Monday—Friday 9.00am—5.00pm. Out of Hours Service available until 9.00pm
- Support Group Meetings
- Support and legal information
- Counselling
- Training sessions for health professionals, students and others



Feidhmeannacht na Seirbhíse Sláinte
Health Service Executive

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