



Protection from Stalking Act 2022 Summary

The Protection from Stalking Act (Northern Ireland) 2022 is to provide protection for individuals from stalking and threatening or abusive behaviour. The Act defines the offence of stalking as causing a person to suffer fear, alarm or substantial distress on two or more occasions.

An individual commits the offence of stalking or “conduct” by exhibiting a wide range of behaviours including:

- Following someone
- Contact/attempted contact of someone
- Publishing material relating to someone
- Monitoring the use of internet, email, or any other form of electronic communication
- Entering any premises as well as interfering with their property
- Loitering in any place
- Watching or spying on

The Act prohibits a person charged with the offence of stalking during any criminal proceedings cross examine in person a witness or victim. With the Act Stalking Protection Orders can be issued. These are court orders that place prohibitions or requirements on someone to stop them engaging in certain “conduct”. These orders can last for a fixed period (at least two years) or until further order. If a Stalking Protection Order is breached, it is a criminal offence.

How does this relate to Older Victim-Survivors?

Older victim-survivors may also have additional needs that make it harder to avoid or escape unwanted conduct, for example mobility or cognitive challenges. Stalking Protection Orders provide a proactive tool for intervention before harm escalates.