

Teach Tearmainn Admissions Policy

When services will be offered

- The services of Teach Tearmainn are available to all women over the age of 18, with or without dependent children who are in crisis as a result of domestic violence. This includes violence perpetrated in the home by a husband or partner or by another family member
- Teach Tearmainn's eligibility criteria is non-discriminatory. All women are eligible to use the service regardless of cultural background, fluency in English, religious or cultural beliefs, whether they have a disability, whether they have an income, sexual preference, geographic location, employment status or (undecided) residency status
- Supported accommodation is available to all women, with or without dependent children, who are escaping domestic violence and who can self-manage and manage to care for their own children, as vacancies permit. This includes women with a mental health issue, women with a disability and women with alcohol or other drug related issues provided they are stabilised to the point of self-management
- Where a woman is not able to self-manage or look after her children, Teach Tearmainn will coordinate (where possible) with other services that can provide appropriate accommodation and provide domestic violence outreach support to the women if appropriate
- Where there is no vacancy at the refuge, Teach Tearmainn will help women to find alternative refuge accommodation or provide outreach support if appropriate
- Teach Tearmainn will accept women from any location, including women that live in the local area, provided the safety of the woman or other residents is not compromised by the proximity of the perpetrator
- Teach Tearmainn will accept all dependent children, male and female, regardless of age. Where a woman is accompanied by one or more male adolescent children over

the age of 14 years, Teach Tearmainn will accept the children unless the behaviour of the children creates a threat to the safety of other clients or staff

- Teach Tearmainn refuge will accept women with or without dependent children who are escaping domestic violence and do not have an incomes (for example, if their residency status in Ireland is still unresolved). However, Teach Tearmainn reserves the right to decide on a case-by-case basis depending on the number of women in this situation already being accommodated and the resources available at the time of application.

Specific Exclusions – when services will not be offered

Teach Tearmainn will assess each woman/family individually. Teach Tearmainn may exclude a woman or family from the refuge if:

- A member of the family has a highly contagious disease, for example measles, chicken pox or mumps.
- There is known conflict between the family and another current resident at the refuge
- There is a history of violence towards workers or clients of the service and this is likely to occur again or create undue stress
- The woman identifies (or the assessing worker identifies) that she or a member of her family would not be able to abide by the general guidelines of the service. For example, a woman says she would find it impossible not to use drugs or alcohol while she was at the service or not to be violent towards other clients of the service.

Where a woman/family is not eligible for services, Teach Tearmainn will help the woman to find alternative accommodation or offer outreach support as appropriate.

Young Women under the age of 18

Teach Tearmainn may be asked from time to time to accommodate or assist young women alone under the age of 18 years of age (the refuge accommodates and assists young women of any age if they have children). Young women alone as a general rule do not fit the eligibility

criteria; however, under some circumstances and due to their complex needs, vulnerability and lack of alternatives they may be supported and accommodated. Sometimes the young person may contact the service and request assistance directly and not be referred by another agency.