



Policy Document

Custody Management

Effective Date	23 September 2026
Version No.	1.0
Approved by	Garda Executive
Introduced by	HQ 056/2026
Policy Owner	Assistant Commissioner

1. Purpose

All custody facilities within An Garda Síochána come under the remit of this policy and its related procedure document. This policy represents An Garda Síochána's strategic objective in respect of the safe, effective and efficient provision of custody services. The purpose of this document and its accompanying procedures is to ensure the organisation is providing a consistent and effective service, that the rights of Persons in Custody are protected during the custody process and that they are treated according to their individual and specific needs; as well as set forth requirements that all relevant personnel shall adhere to when performing their duties.

2. Scope and Compliance

Compliance with this document and all associated documentation is mandatory for all An Garda Síochána personnel as defined by Section 44 of the [Policing, Security and Community Safety Act, 2024](#). This includes Garda Trainees, other persons seconded to An Garda Síochána and Police Officers from the Police Service of Northern Ireland (PSNI) and in accordance with Sections 53, 93 and 94 of the [Policing, Security and Community Safety Act, 2024](#) respectively.

3. Policy Statement

The Custody Management Policy and Procedures document supports all Garda personnel to ensure that those detained in Garda custody are treated according to their individual needs, ensuring they are treated fairly and professionally irrespective of their background.

The introduction of this policy and related documents will:

- Ensure An Garda Síochána has a safe, effective and efficient custody management process in place with appropriate governance and accountability procedures to ensure compliance with relevant legislation.
- Ensure the role of Garda personnel involved in the management and delivery of custody are clearly defined and that appropriate training is provided.
- Ensure there are necessary arrangements in place for the provision of healthcare, legal advice, interpreters, the use of appropriate adults and the notification of arrest and detention to a third party.
- Ensure all persons coming into custody are treated with dignity and respect, and that their needs are catered for including food, clothing, hygiene, sanitary requirements, rest periods, and general safety and wellbeing.
- Ensure the use of powers during the custody process are in accordance with law, necessary, proportionate, accountable and non-discriminatory.
- Ensure that custody facilities are suitable and in good condition.
- Ensure that all persons involved in the custody process are safe through the identification, management and mitigation of risks.

4. Legal & Human Rights Screening

This document has been Legal and Human Rights screened in terms of the respective obligations placed on An Garda Síochána for the subject area concerned.

5. Ethical Standards & Commitments

An Garda Síochána Personnel must observe and adhere to the standards and commitments set out in the [Code of Ethics for An Garda Síochána](#) and uphold and promote this Code throughout the organisation.



6. Post-Implementation Review

This document and all associated documentation will be reviewed twelve months from its date of effect and every three years thereafter or as appropriate.

7. Disclaimer

This document is not intended to, nor does it represent legal advice to be relied upon in respect of the subject matter contained herein. This document should not be used as a substitute for professional legal advice.

8. Data Protection

All Garda Personnel will process personal data for legitimate business purposes only and in line with a clearly defined lawful basis under the [General Data Protection Regulation \(\(EU\) 2016/679\)](#) and/or [Data Protection Acts 1988-2018](#), as applicable. All necessary measures will be put in place to ensure the personal data is kept safe and secure and only authorised personnel shall have access to personal data. Only relevant personal data will be processed, and will not be retained for longer than is necessary. All personnel are required to ensure that individual's data protection rights are adhered to and to identify and mitigate against any suspected data breaches.

