

Disability Legal Information Clinic

Policy for Drop-in Clinics



1. Who can attend?

A. NUIG Students

Students with disabilities in NUIG are one of the key target groups for the clinic. NUIG students may also be parents of children with disabilities or be supporting another family member (e.g. sibling) with a disability. The NUIG FLAC society already provides information to the student population but this clinic could provide more targeted information to these students, with the supervision of CDLP staff and practitioners who specialise in disability law.

B. Local people with disabilities

The information service provided by the clinic will also be of interest to individuals with disabilities in the local community, who are not NUIG students. Due to the confidential nature of the service which the clinic aims to provide, it will not be possible to ascertain whether users are students of NUIG. In addition, if NUIG students are attending with queries about family members, the clinic's policy will be to invite the individual in question to attend the clinic so that information can be provided directly to him/her.

C. Local individuals on behalf of people with disabilities

Parents and siblings or others who support people with disabilities and who are not NUIG students may wish to avail of the information service provided by the clinic. These individuals may be in a position to support people with disabilities to assert and enforce their legal rights. However, providing information to such individuals may pose problems in terms of ensuring that the information is accurately conveyed to the person who requires it. Therefore, clinic policy is to require the person for whom information is sought to attend the clinic, and the person may bring someone (a parent, advocate or friend) with them for support if required.

D. Community organisations (including advocacy groups and service providers)

Many service providers or community organisations working with people with disabilities may seek information from the clinic (e.g. regarding service users in difficult situations). However, since the information service is aimed primarily at individuals, organisations will be referred to the research resource aspect of the clinic, or asked to refer the individual in question (with a support person where appropriate) to drop-in clinics. Anonymised research conducted by the clinic will be made available on its website, and this will be a significant resource for organisations in the community working with people with disabilities.

E. Professionals (legal practitioners, social workers, medical professionals)

Although individuals working with people with disabilities may seek information from the clinic on issues affecting their work (e.g. restrictive practices, equality legislation etc) many of these queries may be more appropriate for the research resource aspect of the clinic and will be referred. However, training sessions provided to clinic volunteers will be made available to all members of the public (e.g. disability equality training, housing law training, etc.) and these sessions would be of significant benefit to professionals working with people with disabilities.

2. What happens at clinics?



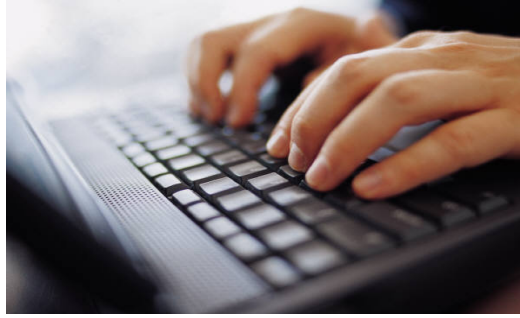
If you would like to attend a drop-in clinic session, please email the clinic in advance at nuigdlic@gmail.com with your query. We cannot respond to queries via email but will reply to confirm the next available clinic date and may request additional information which you can bring with you to the clinic.

When you attend a clinic session, you will be informed that volunteers at the clinic are students and not legal practitioners, and therefore **cannot provide legal advice**, simply information on how to address legal issues facing people with disabilities. Anyone requiring legal advice will have to consult a solicitor separately.

At each drop in session, a student volunteer will greet you and will show you into the boardroom for the drop in session where you will meet the clinic volunteers. Every drop in session will have at least one legal practitioner, one member of CDLP staff, and one or two student volunteers in attendance. If you would like to speak to just one or two people instead of the full team, just let us know.

Volunteers at the clinic respect complete confidentiality of those who attend drop-in sessions. Notes will be kept at the session on the type of query and information given, and this information is kept for training purposes. No identifying information (name, address, etc.) is ever recorded. Anonymised cases based on real queries with no identifying information may be placed on the clinic's website to help other people with similar queries.

The clinic is based in the boardroom of the Centre for Disability Law and Policy, which is fully accessible to all. Drop-in clinics will be held in the boardroom of the Centre and there is also a reception area where people can wait to be seen. If you have additional accessibility requirements (e.g. will require a sign language interpreter) please let us know via email and we will do our best to accommodate you.



3. Contact us

Disability Legal Information Clinic,
Centre for Disability Law and Policy,
NUI Galway.

Email: nuigdlic@gmail.com