

**1. Do behaviour codes apply to conduct in your Chamber? If so, what are the circumstances that are covered?**

○ **If so, how are the codes applied?**

- 1.1. In the most general sense, behaviour in the Dáil chamber is regulated by the Chairperson, who moderates the debate.
- 1.2. The [Standing Orders of Dáil Éireann](#) designate the Chairperson (the “*Cathaoirleach*” or the “*Ceann Comhairle*” in the case of the speaker) as (a) being the sole judge of order, and (b) having the power to interpret Standing Orders and to rule on matters which are not expressly covered in Standing Orders, including but not limited to matters relating to relevance, repetition and appropriate use of privilege during debate.
- 1.3. Dáil Standing Orders contain specific sanctions in relation to disorder, to be applied at the discretion of the Chairperson.
- 1.4. Any member who is in the Chair can tell a member who is disorderly to leave the House for the remainder of the day’s sitting. In addition, the speaker (the “*Ceann Comhairle*”) can put the question to the House that a disorderly member be suspended from the service of the House. (There are set periods of suspension contained in Standing Orders, with the period of suspension dependent on how many times a member has been suspended in that Dáil.)
- 1.5. The Chairperson has rules and guidance to refer to in relation to what constitutes disorderly behaviour. The majority of the rules applying to conduct in the chamber are contained within the [Salient Rulings of the Chair](#) document, which contains the various salient rulings in relation to behaviour made by various Chairpersons over the years.
- 1.6. The Chairperson may have regard to the rulings made by previous Chairpersons but is not bound by them. In practice, the Salient Rulings of the Chair form a body of precedent and guidance in relation to the conduct of members which any Chairperson may draw on when moderating debate in the chamber.
- 1.7. Separately, on 7<sup>th</sup> July 2010, Dáil Éireann adopted the [Report of the Committee on Procedure and Privileges on Parliamentary Standards](#). The report contains a Code of Parliamentary Standards for members of Dáil Éireann. The code is in large part based on the cumulative rulings over the years of successive Dáil Chairpersons on conduct in the House, including behaviour by members towards other members.
- 1.8. Following the adoption of the code, responsibility for regulation of proceedings and maintenance and enforcement of order in the Dáil remains with the Cathaoirleach, who may draw on the Salient Rulings of the Chair and the Code of Parliamentary Standards to assist them when moderating the debate.
- 1.9. More recently, on 17 September 2025, the current Ceann Comhairle of Dáil Éireann, Verona Murphy TD<sup>1</sup>, advised the House that she intended to request that the leaders of Dáil parties and groups meet with her in order to form a consensus response to issues surrounding safe participation in political life.

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<sup>1</sup> TD stands for “*Teachta Dála*” or member of the Dáil.

1.10. As part of this request, the Ceann Comhairle said that members “*must collaborate to protect the integrity of our political discourse - a commitment to discourse that is rigorous yet fair, impassioned yet principled and consistently respectful is essential. As we embark on this term, I urge all members to reflect on the tone and tenor of deliberations.*”

**2. Whether standing orders or codes contain any provisions that impose positive expectations of behaviours that parliamentarians must uphold in the Chamber. For example, ‘members should treat each other with respect’.**

○ **If so, how are such provisions enforced?**

2.1. The Code of Parliamentary Standards (see paragraph 1.7 above) states the following as one of its fundamental principles:

*“Subject to Standing Orders and decisions taken by the House from time to time, members have the right to hear and be heard in debate. It follows that members should show the respect and consideration for the contributions of their fellow members that they would expect in relation to their own.”*

Again, it is a matter for the Chairperson to uphold this principle in the chamber.

**3. The management of allegations or assertions made by parliamentarians about the conduct of other parliamentarians in the Chamber, particularly when the Chair has not heard or observed the incident directly.**

3.1. It is one of the Salient Rulings of the Chair that the Cathaoirleach does not rule on remarks that they have not heard.

3.2. The Dáil Committee on Parliamentary Privileges and Oversight (CPPO) has a general oversight role in relation to parliamentary procedure. It is open to any member to write to CPPO on any matter relating to parliamentary procedure; CPPO cannot make a determination in relation to the conduct of any individual member, save in certain particular circumstances (see below) – however, it is always open to CPPO to recommend to the Dáil any changes to Standing Orders that CPPO considers necessary.

**4. Whether issues need to be dealt with at the time in the Chamber, or if they can be dealt with at a later time.**

○ **If a matter is not dealt with at the time in the Chamber, is there a formal process by which this occurs?**

○ **What is the process for a parliamentarian to raise their concerns?**

4.1. Dáil Standing Orders provide that a person (or an entity which is considered equivalent to a person in law) can make a submission to the Cathaoirleach if they consider that they have been adversely affected by utterances made by members in parliament.

4.2. Such a submission may be made up to six weeks after the remarks are made. This facility is available to both members of the public and to members of parliament.

- 4.3. When the Cathaoirleach receives a submission in this regard, they can either deal with the submission themselves or they can refer the submission to CPPO for its consideration.
  - 4.4. Having considered the submission, if CPPO considers that the utterances constitute an abuse of parliamentary privilege, then the member who made the utterances is required to withdraw them. If that member does not withdraw the utterances, the question will be put to the House that the member be suspended from the service of the Dáil. (The time period for which they are suspended is set out in Standing Orders.)
  - 4.5. The procedures around making a submission on utterances which may have had an adverse effect are contained in Dáil Standing Orders 72 and 73 [[2024 edition](#)].
5. **Any training offered to presiding officers and anyone else taking the Chair in the Chamber to assist them with responding to incidents of disrespectful behaviour in the Chamber.**
- 5.1. Any member taking the chair in the Dáil is offered training beforehand in relation to the rules of debate and what constitutes disorderly behaviour.
  - 5.2. Prospective Chairpersons are advised of the fundamental tenets of parliamentary debate, i.e., that members should speak “through the Chair” and should not personalise debate.
  - 5.3. Prospective Chairpersons are also given training in relation to their prerogatives as Chair.
6. **What are the sanctions for disrespectful behaviour in the Chamber?**
- **How frequently are those sanctions applied in practice?**
- 6.1. See paragraph 1.4 above in relation to sanctions which may be applied by the Chairperson in the chamber for disorderly behaviour.
  - 6.2. See paragraph 4.4 above in relation to the sanction which may be applied where a member does not withdraw utterances which have been found to be an abuse of parliamentary privilege.