

Garda Vetting Requirements for Teaching Yoga to Children and Vulnerable Adults (Republic of Ireland)

Garda Vetting is the process used in Ireland to ensure that people working with children or vulnerable persons are suitable and safe to do so.

It is managed by the National Vetting Bureau (NVB) of An Garda Síochána under the National Vetting Bureau (Children and Vulnerable Persons) Acts 2012–2016.

You must be vetted if you are employed by a relevant organisation to engage in “relevant work or activities” that involve regular, ongoing, or unsupervised access to children or vulnerable persons.

The registered organisation (such as the venue or school) will go through the vetting process on your behalf.

The vetting process includes:

1. Completing an NVB1 form (paper or online).
2. Providing proof of identity and address.
3. Completing an e-vetting invitation and online application.
4. Receiving a Garda Vetting Disclosure indicating whether you have any relevant convictions or information.

Garda Vetting does not have a fixed expiry, but most organisations require renewal every 3 years.

You must also renew vetting if you change organisation or take on a new role involving children.

All vetting information is handled in accordance with the Data Protection Acts 1988–2018 and the GDPR.

Only authorised personnel may access your vetting results, and information must be stored securely and confidentially.

Once vetted, you will receive a Garda Vetting Disclosure showing:

- Your name and date of birth.
- Any criminal record (if applicable).
- Confirmation that you have been vetted for “relevant work with children.”

Keep a scanned copy for submission to IY(UK) or your yoga organisation.

Self- Employed Teachers Working with Vulnerable Adults and Children in ROI

ROI law does not allow self-employed workers to undergo checks with Garda Vetting to work with vulnerable groups. These Guidelines ensure that yoga teachers in ROI can teach vulnerable groups without contravening IY(UK) safeguarding requirements.

Garda Vetting statement on self-employed workers:

You are a self-employed person conducting work as part of a private arrangement between you and the individual concerned.

“Private arrangement” is defined in the National Vetting Bureau (Children and Vulnerable Persons) Acts 2012 to 2016 as an arrangement made by an individual for the provision by any person of relevant work or activities—

(a) for, or for the benefit of, the individual, or

(b) for, or for the benefit of, a child or vulnerable person who is a member of the individual’s family;

This being the case, you are not considered a relevant organisation in accordance with the Act.

Self-employed persons conducting work outside of the above requirements are doing so as part of a Private Arrangement as defined in the Act and do not require vetting.

If you are conducting relevant work as part of a contract of services to a relevant organisation, it is the responsibility of the relevant organisation concerned to conduct vetting on your behalf, in accordance with Section 12 of the National Vetting Bureau (Children and Vulnerable Persons) Acts 2012 to 2016. If this situation applies to the work you are conducting, you need to contact the organisation proposing to employ you who will conduct vetting in respect of you.

To meet IY(UK) standards, ROI Iyengar teachers who cannot get Garda Vetting via a relevant organisation must:

1. Have a [Consent Form](#) for each Child/formally identified Vulnerable Adult signed by a Parent/Guardian.
2. Have a Second Adult present at each class for children aged 12 and under. This could be a Parent/Guardian, or two teachers could run the class together. It is desirable for there to be two adults present at all classes where children are aged under 18, but mandatory for those aged 12 years and under, with discretion applied for those aged over 12’.

Classes *aimed specifically at Vulnerable Adults* will generally require Garda Vetting and will likely have a Second Adult present from a Relevant Organisation or their primary carer/family member.

When an adult who the teacher considers may be vulnerable joins a general class, the teacher *must make a judgement as to their competency to teach that individual safely.*

3. Advise their Yoga insurance company and pay any additional fee if called for.

This is a complex area, and individual circumstances may raise queries. We encourage all members to contact either the Safeguarding Leads or the Ethics and Appeals Committee for advice and guidance.