

Family carer referral pathway

This is an overview of the pathway for family members and carers to refer a person to the BDR Registrar.

Overview

- A family member or carer with regard to a person's health, safety or wellbeing can make a referral to the BDR Registrar for that person to be considered to go on the BDR.
- The family or carer must demonstrate that the person or their family and community is at risk of alcohol-related harm as a result of their alcohol consumption.
- A person referred to the BDR Registrar under this pathway must be referred for assessment. An assessment may be made in person or on the basis of information provided or otherwise available to the clinician.
- The decision made by the BDR Registrar is appealable to Northern Territory Civil and Administrative Tribunal (NTCAT).
- Bans given under this pathway can be reduced by the person undertaking the recommended therapeutic support.

What is the family carer referral pathway?

The family carer referral pathway offers family members and carers of a person the opportunity to make a referral for that person to be on the BDR.

Who is considered a family member or carer?

A family member is considered to be the spouse or de facto partner of a person or any other relative of the adult, including those related in accordance with Aboriginal customary law or tradition. A carer includes anybody that has caring responsibilities for a person and includes the Public Guardian.

How do they refer?

The family member or carer fills in the "Family Carer Guardian Application" form with their details, the detail of the person they wish to refer and the evidence required by the BDR Registrar to make a decision.

What information is required as evidence to support a referral?

The evidence required to support a referral must indicate actual or potential alcohol-related harm. This evidence could be any of the following:

- knowledge of interactions with Police or Child Protection
- knowledge of medical conditions or alcohol-related injuries and illness
- any other substantive evidence that demonstrates a risk to the person's health, safety or wellbeing (or to others around them) as a result of their alcohol consumption.

How is a decision made?

The BDR Registrar makes their decision based on the following criteria:

- the person is an adult
- the person is misusing alcohol
- the person's alcohol misuse is a risk to the health, safety or welfare of the person or others (including children and other dependants).

Will a person be informed that they are on the BDR?

When a decision has been made, a person being placed on the BDR will be advised that they have received a Banned Drinker Order (BDO), the length of this BDO and how they can undertake the recommended therapeutic supports. It will also include details of how to seek a case review with NTCAT.

Can a person shorten their ban by undertaking treatment?

Yes. Under this pathway a person could shorten their ban by participating in and completing the recommended therapeutic support. This is at the discretion of the BDR Registrar.

How can someone appeal?

A person who does not agree with the decision of the BDR Registrar can apply to NTCAT for a review of their case. It is free to apply for a review and is done by NTCAT as soon as practicable.

Where can I find the form?

The Family Carer Guardian Application form is available online at www.banneddrinkerregister.nt.gov.au and needs to be emailed to BannedDrinkerRegister.doh@nt.gov.au.