

LawEd

TAKING THE LAW FURTHER

THE
DANGERS

SCRAMBLERS & E-SCOOTERS

info@lawed.ie



A GROWING ISSUE

In recent years, small motorised vehicles like **scrambler bikes** and **e-scooters** have become a familiar sight across Ireland. For many young people, they may seem fast, convenient, and fun to use. However, these vehicles can present **serious safety risks** when used incorrectly or in the wrong places. Gardaí have identified their **illegal use** as a growing concern, particularly in urban areas, where it can put both riders and the public at risk.



DID YOU KNOW?

449 scramblers, quads, e-bikes, and e-scooters were **seized** between 1 January and 30 October 2025 in the Dublin Metropolitan Region alone



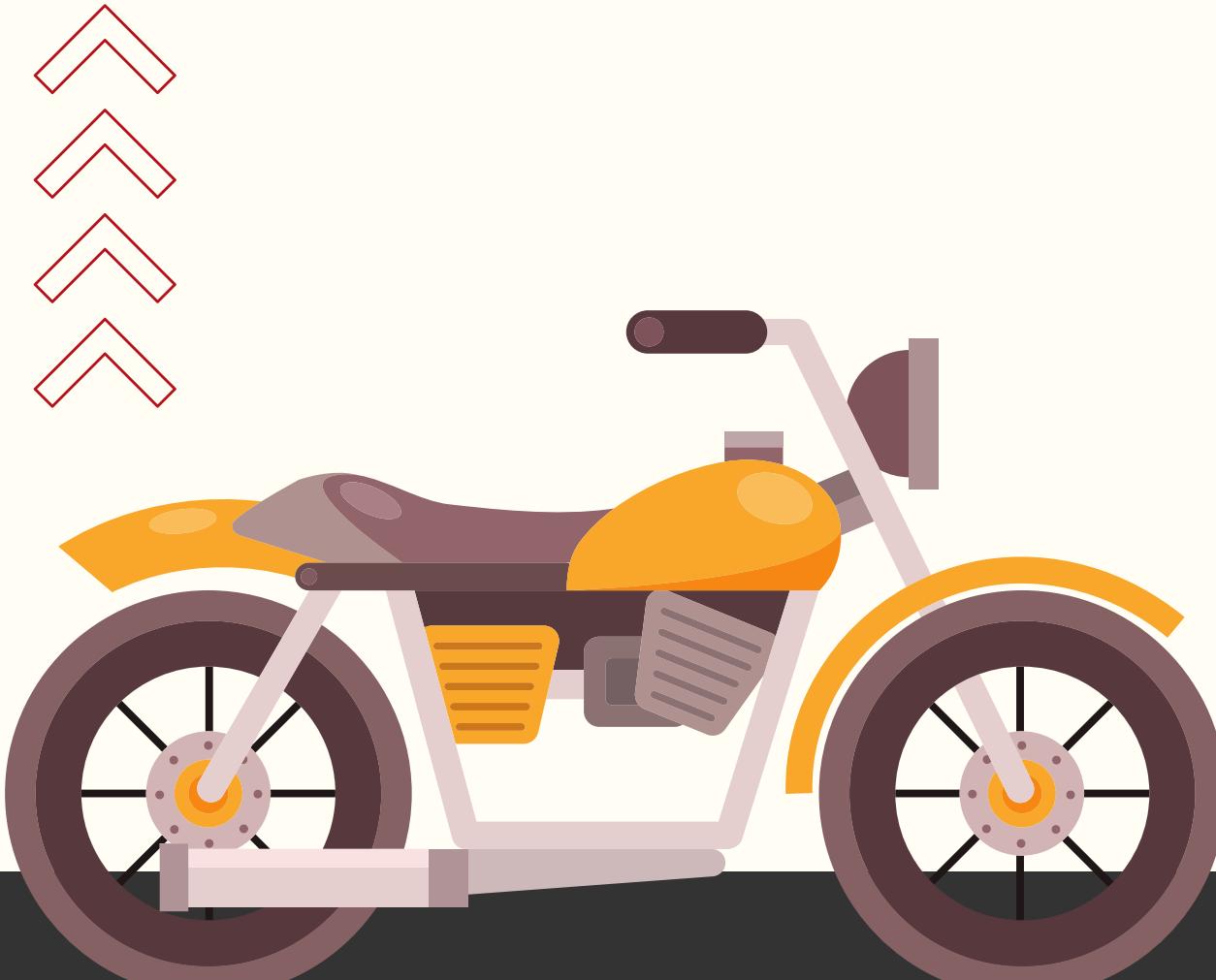
SCRAMBLERS

A scrambler bike is an off-road motorcycle designed for use on dirt tracks or private land. Scramblers are not usually legally allowed to be used on public roads or in public spaces because they do not meet the requirements set out in road traffic law. Under the **Road Traffic Act 1961**, any mechanically propelled vehicle can only be used on a public road if it is registered, has a registration plate, and meets legal standards such as tax, insurance etc.



RULES

New regulations are being introduced to further strengthen these rules and give Gardaí **greater powers** to deal with dangerous or illegal scrambler use.





GRACES LAW

Following the tragic death of a 16-year-old girl who was struck by a scrambler bike in Dublin in January 2026, the Government announced new legislation, referred to as “**Grace’s Law**.”

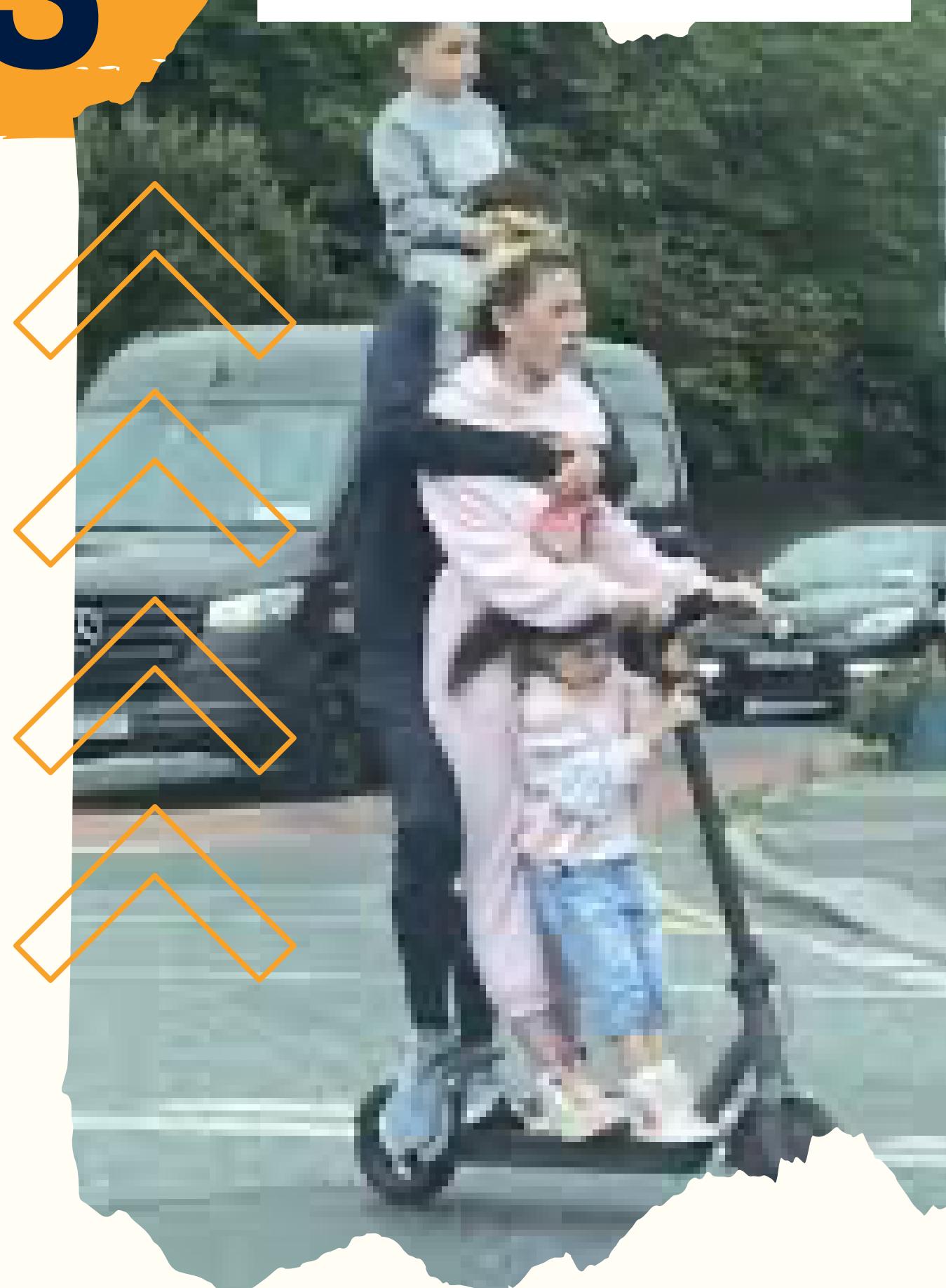
The proposed law aims to:

- Completely **ban scrambler bikes** from all public spaces, including roads and parks.
- **Remove** any legal ambiguity about where they can be used.
- Give Gardaí clearer powers to **seize and destroy** illegal scramblers.



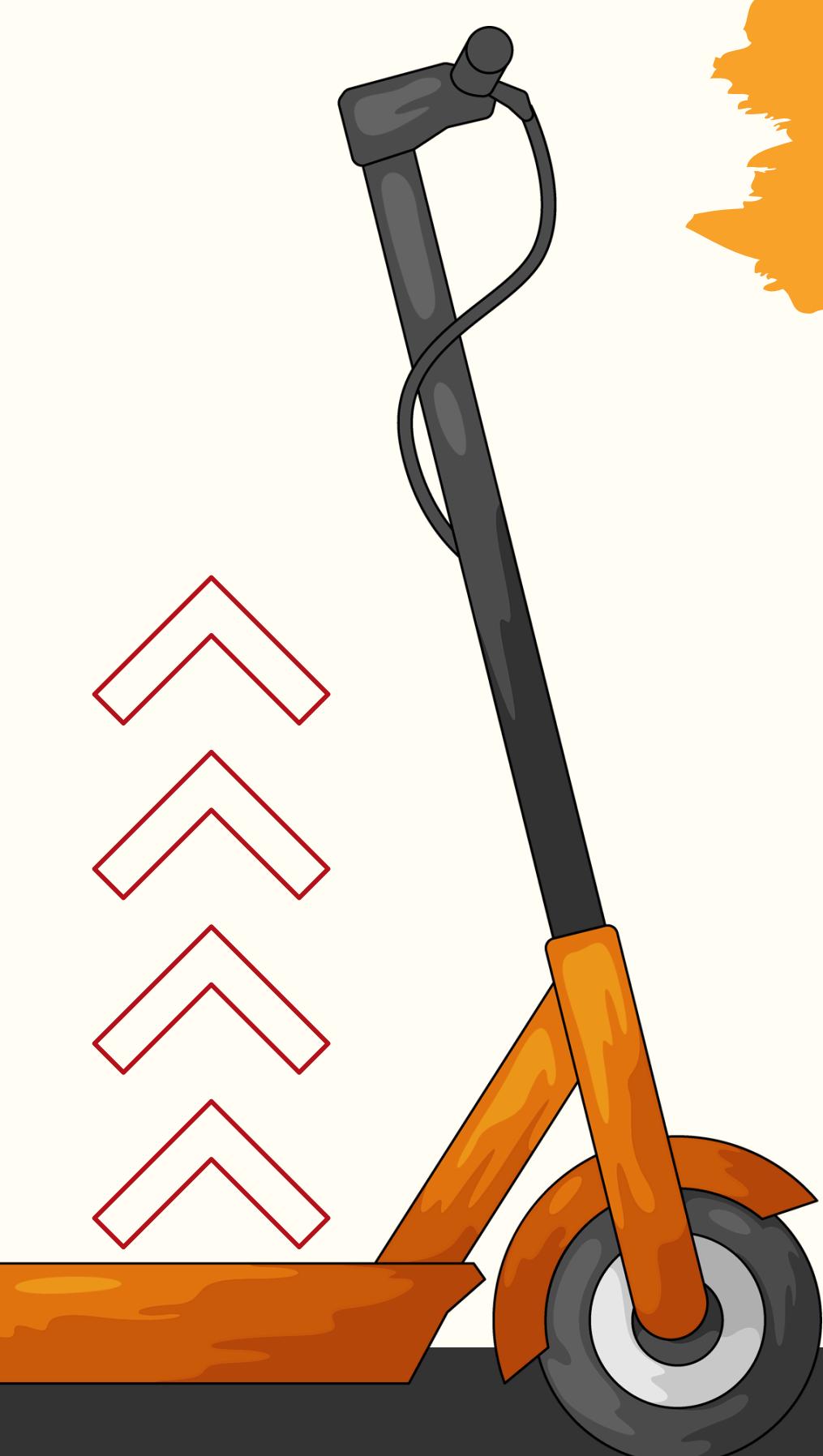
E-SCOOTERS

Unlike scramblers, e-scooters are **legal** in Ireland, but only if they meet specific safety and technical requirements. Since 2024, e-scooters have been recognised under road traffic legislation as a form of personal **transport**. However, their use is regulated to protect both riders and pedestrians.



THE RULES

- Must be 16 years or older
- Maximum speed: 20 km/h
- Registration, motor tax, licence, or insurance are not required
- Not allowed on footpaths, pedestrian zones, motorways.
- Same drink/drug driving laws apply





STRICTER RULES FOR E-SCOOTERS

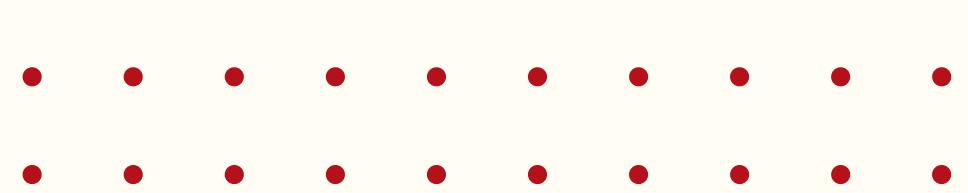
Although e-scooters are legal, the Government is now considering tighter **safety regulations**.

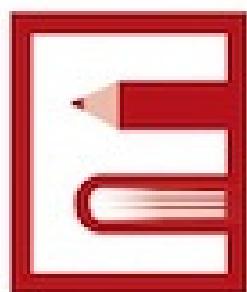
Proposed measures include:

- Mandatory **helmet** use
- **High-visibility** clothing
- Increased enforcement **powers**



These changes reflect growing **concerns** about road safety and the rising number of incidents involving small motorised vehicles.





THE LEGAL

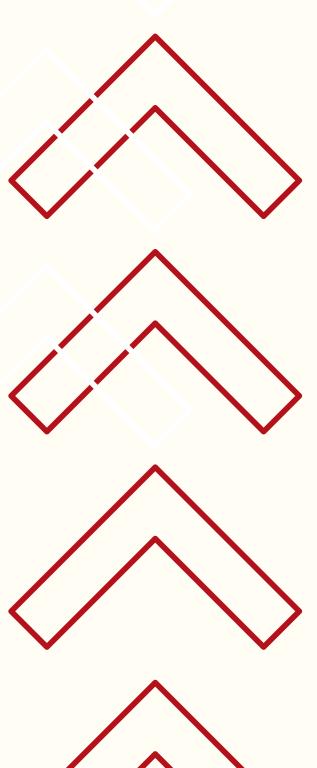
CONSEQUENCES

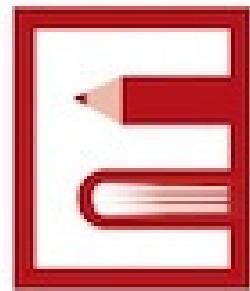
Using scramblers and e-scooters illegally can lead to:

- Seizure of the vehicle
- Fines
- Penalty points
- Court appearances
- Criminal charges in serious cases



If someone is seriously injured or killed, the consequences can include long-term imprisonment.

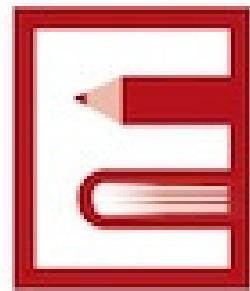




WHAT ARE THE PENALTIES?

E-SCOOTER OFFENCES	PENALTY
Riding over 400 W, over 20 km/h, improper equipment, or on footpaths	€50 fixed fine (per offence)
Riding under the influence of alcohol or drugs	Up to €2,000 + court hearing
Unsafe or illegal scooter use	On-spot confiscation

SCRAMBLER OFFENCES	PENALTY
Dangerous or antisocial use	Seizure without warrant, fines up to €5,000 and potential imprisonment.



ARE PARENTS

LEGALLY LIABLE?

Under Irish road traffic law, mini motorised vehicles such as scramblers are classified as mechanically propelled vehicles (MPVs). It is an offence to **supply** an MPV to a person under 16 for use in a public place, and a person can face a fine of up to €3,000, up to six months' imprisonment, or both. While there has been no legislation specifically targeting **parents** for their child's illegal use of scramblers or e-scooters, this existing offence remains in place and may apply depending on the circumstances.

Recent Government action has focused on **banning** scrambler use in public places and strengthening Garda enforcement **powers**.

