An authorised person 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 authorised person 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 does not have to present to an assessment. A decision can be made by the Registrar in their absence on the weight of the evidence provided.

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 authorised person referral pathway?**

The authorised person referral pathway offers people in certain positions within the community the opportunity to make a referral for someone to be on the BDR. This means a person does not have to commit a crime or come to Police or the courts attention to be considered to go on the BDR.

**Who is an authorised person?**

Authorised persons are:

- Police Officers
- Doctors
- Registered Nurses
- A health practitioner registered under the Health Practitioner Regulation National Law (psychologist, psychiatrist, physiotherapist etc)
- Child Protection Officer
- Paramedics
- Social Workers
- SUS Team Leader.

**How do they refer?**

The authorised person fills in the "Authorised Person Referral Pathway" form with their details, the detail of the person they wish to refer (including proof of identity) 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 depends on the profession of the authorised person, however it must indicate actual or potential alcohol-related harm. This evidence could be any of the following:

- history of interactions with Police
- client/patient history of alcohol-related injury/harm/illness
- medical test results eg liver function
- case notes
- other substantive evidence.

The evidence will need to be robust enough for the BDR Registrar to make an informed decision, even if the referred person does not attend an assessment.

The BDR Registrar may make contact with the authorised person to request further documentation or clarification of the evidence provided.

Each agency will have their own policy about who they will refer to the BDR Registrar and under what circumstances.

**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).

The criteria can also include:

- the person has triggered the BDR previously and did not undertake any therapeutic support
- the person may benefit from a therapeutic support.
**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 organise an assessment if they wish to do so. It will also include details of how to seek a review by Northern Territory Civil Administrative Tribunal (NTCAT).

The authorised person that made the referral will be advised of the outcome of their referral.

**Can a person shorten their ban by undertaking treatment?**
Yes. Under this pathway a person could shorten their ban by undertaking the recommended therapeutic support.

**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.

The authorised person, clinicians involved in the assessment and the BDR Registrar may be requested to appear at the hearing to provide information.

**Where can I find the form?**
The Authorised Person Referral Pathway form is available online at [www.banneddrinkerregister.nt.gov.au](http://www.banneddrinkerregister.nt.gov.au) and needs to be emailed to BannedDrinkerRegister.doh@nt.gov.au.