



“Being there for them”

A booklet for grandparents of
children whose parents are
not married to each other

Treoir is a non-governmental organisation supported by Government, health board and other grants. Membership is open to agencies who work with unmarried parents and their children.

Treoir operates a free, confidential *National Information Centre* for unmarried parents and those involved with them.

Treoir has many publications which are listed inside the back cover.

Treoir promotes policy change, commissions research projects and holds conferences and workshops on a regular basis.

Treoir provides information and support through its *National Resource Centre for those Working with Young Parents* and the *National Co-ordination of the Teen Parent Support Initiative*.

WHAT THIS BOOKLET AIMS TO DO

This booklet is for grandparents whose grandchildren are born outside marriage. It highlights the many and varied roles that grandparents play in the lives of their adult children and grandchildren.

In addition to the many very positive aspects of grandparenting some grandparents may find themselves:

- coping with their adult children's unexpected pregnancies
- caring for grandchildren on an informal and occasional basis
- supporting parents with the care of their children in the family home
- being the main carers of their grandchildren
- experiencing difficulties with maintaining contact with their grandchildren
- having concerns about the well-being and safety of their grandchildren.

Grandparents in these situations may need support, advice and information on useful services. This booklet offers guidance on these services and provides relevant legal and financial information. It aims to support the role of grandparents and offers guidelines on how to cope with the various roles they may find themselves in. This booklet emphasises the positive aspects of grandparenting while recognising the boundaries and realities of the grandparenting role.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

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The staff and council members of Treoir were especially helpful and supportive in their input to this publication.

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Brenda Forde and Gemma Rowley

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Treoir

The National Federation of Services for
Unmarried Parents and their Children

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www.treoir.ie

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While every effort has been made to ensure that the information is accurate,
no responsibility can be accepted by Treoir for any error or omission.

This booklet is a guide only

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BEING A GRANDPARENT

The primary source of support for most families is their own family – which offers an informal and yet very stable sense of security. Families generally benefit greatly from links with their relatives. Grandparents in particular can play a pivotal role in family life. Special relationships can exist between grandchildren and grandparents which bring much joy and fulfilment to both, and can enhance grandchildren’s self-esteem. Grandparents represent an important store of family history as well as local, historic and social knowledge which helps grandchildren know where they fit into the family.

The age group of grandparents today is much younger. Many have recently returned to or are continuing in employment, are partaking in education/training or may be involved in recreational pursuits, having put such things on hold while rearing their own children.

Family styles and types today are more varied and evolving and there is a greater diversity in family life. Many people are marrying later, tend to live together and/or have their babies outside marriage. Parents may not always live together, and an increasing number of both parents are going out to work.

There can be economic difficulties which may affect many families. For instance the increased cost of living and the lack of both affordable and local authority housing have a serious impact on young families trying to become independent. There may be additional difficulties for young parents such as drug abuse or family violence which can be extremely difficult to deal with.

All or some of these issues can impact on the lives of grandparents bringing many additional responsibilities, especially for child care whether part-time or full-time. Grandparents can provide a sense of security and stability to grandchildren, in particular where there is a breakdown in family relations. Whatever their role, whatever the circumstances, the most commonly used phrase by grandparents who were consulted in the preparation of this booklet was “being there for them”. This reflects their wholehearted wish to do their best for their grandchildren and the parents. Many new parents would be lost without the support and advice of an experienced grandparent.

CHILDREN: THEIR RIGHTS AND NEEDS

What all children need from the adults in their lives - parents and grandparents - is to be cherished, loved and respected. Their emotional and physical development depends on security and stability in their lives.

All children have two parents and ideally children need to know who both their parents are. It is important for them to develop a strong sense of identity and family history - who they are and where they come from - which will help to ensure a real sense of belonging and place in the world. The U.N. Convention on the Rights of the Child (which Ireland has ratified) recognises this right of all children to preserve their identities.

Both parents have a significant place and role in the lives of their children. Joint parenting is good for children and gives children the opportunity of developing close relationships with both parents and their extended families, which is in the best interest of children. The U.N. Convention recognises just how important parents are to children and the right of all children to a personal relationship and direct contact with both their parents where possible. This option may not always be available or possible – for example when violence, abuse or extremes of conflict are involved.

It can happen where there is no longer a relationship between parents that one of the parents can feel left out, isolated or unsure about their particular role and responsibilities to their children. If there are difficulties between the two families, as a grandparent, do try to welcome, or at least tolerate, whatever relationship develops between the other parent, her/his extended family and your grandchild. Time spent building a bridge of communication between families is truly in the best interest of your grandchild and all the families.

Get a copy of

Family Links – steps and stages

(which is aimed at helping children to understand their family situation where their parents are not living together) from Treoir. €5

Try to be positive and supportive to the parents of your grandchild. Above all don't be negative about either parent to your grandchild. You are hurting your grandchild most of all by this. It is important that children have as positive an image as possible of both their parents. This helps your grandchild's self-esteem and sense of family identity.

UNPLANNED PREGNANCY

Pregnancy counselling agencies

Crisis Pregnancy Counselling Service

Midland Health Board 1800 200 857

Crisis Pregnancy Support

Ballinasloe 1850 200 600

Cura 1850 62 26 26

Dublin Well Woman Centre

01 872 8051

01 668 1108

01 848 4511

Irish Family Planning Association

1850 49 50 51

Life 1850 281 281

One Family (formerly Cherish)

1890 66 22 12

PACT 1850 67 33 33

Pregnancy Counselling & Support Service

Mayo General Hospital 1890 200 022

The Information Pack for Unmarried

Parents published by Treoir (free)

contains valuable information on general social and legal issues including:

- registration of births
- legal issues
- social welfare entitlements
- paternity testing
- mediation
- cohabitation
- shared parenting
- support services and useful addresses

Treoir

National Information Centre for Unmarried Parents

14 Gandon House, IFSC, Dublin 1.

01 6700 120

info@treoir.ie • www.treoir.ie

An unexpected pregnancy can initially be a shock causing much confusion and concern for all. Undoubtedly there are particular concerns for you if your daughter or son's partner is pregnant. You may be anxious about the education or future of your daughter or son and/or his partner. You might be disappointed and have fears that their life chances will be curtailed.

You may also have concerns about the baby. However, it is important to let your daughter/son arrive at their own decision regarding the pregnancy. Encourage them to attend one of the pregnancy counselling agencies listed in the box on the left. These agencies also offer confidential advice, support and counselling to grandparents free of charge.

Legal information

Guardianship

is the collection of rights and duties which a parent has in respect of her/his child. It includes the right to make decisions about a child's religious and secular education, health requirements, passport applications and other matters affecting the welfare of the child.

Custody

is having the main care of the child, i.e. the physical day to day care of the child.

Joint Custody

is sharing the day-to-day care of the child.

Access

is having contact with a child if the child is not living with the parent.

Maintenance

is the legal right of the child to be financially maintained by both parents.

The Parents

When a baby is born to a woman who is not married to the baby's father she automatically has sole custody and sole guardianship of her child even if she is under 18. The father has no automatic legal rights in relation to his child. Where the parents are married to each other the parents automatically share custody and guardianship rights and responsibilities.

The father can become a joint **guardian** with the mother with her consent by signing the appropriate form (S.I. 5 of 1998). This is available from Treoir (free) or Government Publications (€2.03).

If the mother does not consent, the father can apply to the local District Court (see S.I.125 of 1999). For further information contact Treoir's National Information Centre for Unmarried Parents at 01 6700 120 or info@treoir.ie.

If at all possible it is important for a child to have the names of both parents on the **birth certificate** so that s/he will have knowledge of the identity of both parents.

A father does not get any legal rights from having his name on his child's birth certificate.

The Grandparents

Grandparents do not have any automatic legal rights in relation to their grandchildren. Grandparents generally have access through the parents. If grandparents are being denied contact with their grandchildren they have a right to apply to the local District Court for **leave to apply** for access. For further information (see page 15).

Think about

- How best to support your daughter/son in their decision making without actually making decisions for them. This may be difficult for you as you may be used to being the main decision maker in your family.
- Being available to your daughter/son if they want to discuss options and the implications of these options.
- Contacting one of the agencies listed above if your daughter/son makes a decision you have difficulty with, and you feel you need advice and support.
- Encouraging her/him to access early medical care and information on social welfare entitlements and the many legal issues involved.
- What you are prepared to offer and what you are not prepared to do once the baby is born. This does not mean you are unsupportive. Make this clear to your daughter/son so they know what to expect realistically.
- The paternity issues and the role of the father in the baby's future.

Remember you are not alone in this situation.

SUPPORT AND CARE FOR GRANDCHILDREN

Grandparents may find themselves supporting their grandchildren and their parents in different ways:

- informal and occasional childminding
- supporting parents with the care of their children in the family home
- providing the main care for grandchildren.

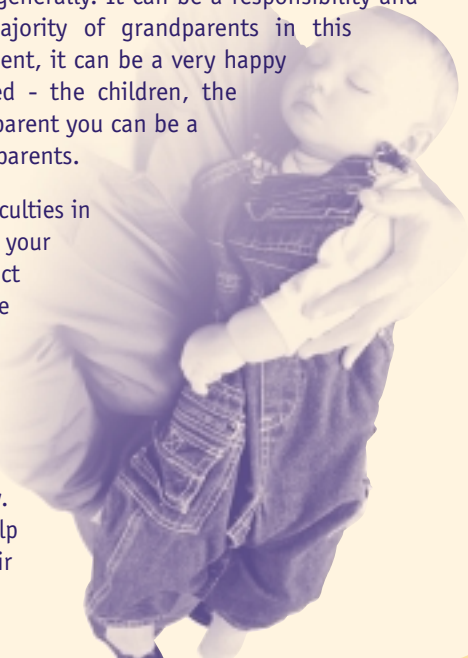
Informal and occasional child minding

For many grandparents their involvement with their grandchildren is a natural extension of their family life, looking after them in an informal ad hoc way, offering to 'mind' grandchildren on a regular or occasional basis and generally helping out the parents. This informal arrangement provides both grandparents and grandchildren with the opportunity of getting to know each other and developing a close relationship which enriches both. Older grandchildren appreciate and value the interest and devotion of grandparents. Knowing that grandparents are there for them in this informal, casual way strengthens their family links and sense of togetherness.

Supporting parents in the care of their children in the family home

This can be a big transition - having children in the house again while juggling existing commitments and managing life generally. It can be a responsibility and challenge for grandparents. For the majority of grandparents in this particular situation, while it is a commitment, it can be a very happy and fulfilling experience for all concerned - the children, the parents and the grandparents. As a grandparent you can be a real source of advice and help to the new parents.

However, you may find yourself having difficulties in your relationship with the parent (either your daughter or son) leading to on-going conflict between you. This may have always been the case but sharing your home or care of your grandchild can heighten this conflict and can potentially cause many tensions between you. It may be helpful, or even necessary, to involve a third party to work through the difficulties within the family. Contacting a mediation service can help families in conflict negotiate and find their own solutions (see page 14).



Think about

- Your role as a grandparent - the boundaries and the realities of this role.
- Parents and grandparents having a different relationship and role with the child. Competition between parent and grandparent should be avoided.
- Acknowledging and respecting the primary role of the parent regarding parenting matters.
- Not getting in the way of your grandchild's relationship with the other parent.
- What you are prepared to offer in terms of care, child-minding and indirect financial support (e.g. food, heat etc). Be realistic about how much time you can devote to caring for your grandchild and make this clear and agree it with the parent.
- Negotiating your hours and payment for child care, if appropriate. As a grandparent/carer you are not at the beck and call of the parent.
- How best to communicate with your grandchild's parents if difficulties arise. Listening and talking about the issues is important. Grandparents and parents can have different ideas around discipline or routine issues, for example mealtimes, bedtimes, budgeting. Talk through these issues openly and be open to compromise.
- Being left with too much responsibility - remind the parent that s/he is the parent and therefore the one with the main responsibility for the child.
- Being sensitive to and aware of the stresses and circumstances of the parents.
- Being prepared if your daughter/son decides to move out of the family home with your grandchild. It might be difficult to let go. However, helping her/him to achieve independence is important.
- Forgiveness – it is important. Parent/grandparent alienation is painful for all.
- Talking to the parents who are guardians about the importance of making a will to appoint a guardian for their child in the event of their death.
- Not being overwhelmed with anxieties about your role as a grandparent. If you need expert help don't be afraid to ask for it. It can be extremely helpful to seek support and advice. Contact one of the agencies listed at the back of this booklet.
- Enjoying your own interests. A relaxed "fun giver" grandparent is a huge support to parents and child.
- The importance of your own relationship with your partner and the other adult relationships in your life.
- How special and important you are to your grandchild, bringing much enrichment to her/his life.

Using the time together during the pregnancy to explore all these issues will be of enormous benefit to everybody when your grandchild is born.

Providing the main care for grandchildren

When parents are no longer able to care for their children, grandparents may 'step in' to take on the role of main carer of their grandchildren. The response of grandparents to this particular situation is motivated by their concern for their grandchildren and their wish to keep them and care for them within their own family structures. While this is a full-time commitment, it is an informal arrangement with no automatic legal rights, obligations or responsibilities to the local health board.

If you find yourself as the main carer this can be a challenging transition bringing many additional responsibilities. Apart from the disruption to your normal routine, caring for a child or young person can be demanding and tiring. However knowing that your grandchild will benefit from your love and care can be a great comfort. Accessing such supports as are available can be helpful to you in coping with these additional responsibilities.

As the main carer it is important to recognise that a child may need contact with her/his parents where possible, if this is in the best interest of the child. If circumstances do not permit this contact, talking to your grandchild about her/his parents and keeping their memory 'alive' is equally important.



General supports

There are some supports available from your local health board:

- ◆ Public Health Nurses provide both general health and specific developmental advice and monitor the development of the child. They also offer a valuable support to those who are involved in the main care of children under the age of three.
- ◆ General Practitioners are the main providers of primary health care within the community on behalf of the health boards. They offer valuable medical help and general support and advice.
- ◆ If you are having difficulties coping at a particular time, you may find it useful to contact the Duty Social Worker of the local health board. S/he may be able to offer some advice and assistance to you.
- ◆ There are many agencies who offer support to grandparents and these are listed at the back of this booklet. Contact them for support and information.



Financial Supports

◆ Child Benefit

A grandparent may receive this payment if they have the main care of their grandchild and s/he is residing with them. Complete CB1 form (available from post offices). Once the Department of Social and Family Affairs is satisfied that the child is residing with you and in your main care, they will write to the parent informing them of their intention to transfer the payment to you. If there is no response from the parents within 14 days, the payment will then automatically go to you.

◆ Orphans Allowance/Pension

A child is regarded as an orphan where

- both parents are dead
- one parent is dead, unknown, has abandoned or refused or failed to provide for the child **and** the other parent is unknown, or has abandoned or has refused or failed to provide for the child.

Independent written confirmation of the parent(s) failure to provide will be required. If any of the above applies and you have the main care of your grandchild you can apply for:

- Orphan's (Non-Contributory) Pension which is assessed on the orphan's means.
- Orphan's (Contributory) Allowance if the parent or step-parent of the child (i.e. your daughter or son) has made at least 26 weeks PRSI contributions at any time.

Both payments continue until the child reaches the age of 18 (or 22 if in full time education). You may receive any other payment from the Department of Social and Family Affairs in your own right and still get an Orphan's Allowance/Pension. However you will not receive any Child Dependant Allowance in respect of your grandchild on your own payment.



Completed application forms (OA1) should be returned to: Pension Services Office, Social Welfare Office, College Road, Sligo. Tel: 071 35200, 01 8748444.

You may also be entitled to: Fuel Allowance / Bereavement Grant / Assistance under the Supplementary Welfare Allowance Scheme.

◆ **One-Parent Family Payment**

A grandparent who is or becomes a lone parent may apply for One-Parent Family Payment if their grandchild resides with them and is in their main care. Complete and return form OFP 1 (available from post offices) and return the form accompanied by evidence that you have the main care of your grandchild e.g. letter from social worker, GP or school principal. You may still qualify for One-Parent Family Payment while receiving a Relative/Foster Care Allowance.

Legal information

Guardianship

Where a parent who was a guardian has died without making a will appointing someone to act as a guardian for their child, a grandparent (or any person) can apply to the local District Court under Section 8 of the Guardianship of Infants Act, 1964, to be appointed a guardian of the child.

Maintenance

Where a child is not being properly financially maintained by either or both parents you, as the main carer of the child, can apply to the local District Court for a maintenance order from one or both parents. Contact the clerk of your local District Court. See page 15 for information on Legal Aid.

Adoption

You may apply to the Adoption Board to adopt your grandchild should that be appropriate. This is a major decision that needs much thought and discussion. For further information contact the Adoption Board.

The Adoption Board
Tel: 01 6671392
www.adoptionboard.ie

Wardship

Where a child (under 18) requires the Court's protection for a particular reason they may be taken into Wardship. This will only be considered where all other remedies have been exhausted.

Office of the Wards of Court
01 8886189 / 01 8886140 or
www.courts.ie.

Think about

- Your role and responsibilities as the main carer of your grandchild and what these entail. Discuss fully, with other family members, the implications of these responsibilities for you.
- What supports are available to help you within your family structures e.g. with occasional childminding etc.
- What supports are available to you professionally i.e. local health board, voluntary agencies and within your own community.
- The importance of your own relationship with your partner and the other adult relationships in your life.
- Looking after your health.
- Talking to your grandchild about her/his parents, sharing mementos of them with her/him. It may be helpful to get professional advice on how to approach this whole issue with your grandchild.

What you are doing as the main carer of your grandchild is really important. If at times you feel anxious or overwhelmed this is perfectly understandable. The mutual benefits for you and your grandchild generally are huge.

DIFFICULTIES AND CONCERNS FOR SOME GRANDPARENTS

The following two issues may be of concern to some grandparents:

- difficulty with the well-being and safety of grandchildren
- concerns about the well-being and safety of grandchildren

Difficulty with contact with your grandchild

If the parents of your grandchild are no longer in a relationship and contact with your grandchild is proving difficult, try to build a bridge of communication between yourself, the other parent and the other grandparents. This could be very beneficial and helpful to your grandchild. Building on this communication may take time and hard work, but it is truly in the interest of your grandchild and both families.

If you and your adult child, who is the parent, are being excluded from your grandchild's life this can be very upsetting especially if you have already built up a relationship with your grandchild. The responsibility for maintaining contact rests primarily with the parents. Encourage your daughter/son to try to reach some agreement around contact with your grandchild. Remind your daughter/son that this contact is important for the child and her/his relationships with the whole family.

Family negotiations that work best are carried out through open and clear communication, especially in the operation of day-to-day contact issues. It may be helpful, or even necessary, to involve a third party to work through the difficulties within the family.

Contacting a mediation service can help families in conflict negotiate and find their own solutions.

Mediation services

Mediation can only take place where all interested parties, parents and grandparents, agree to take part in the mediation process. The Family Mediation Service (under the auspices of the Family Support Agency) works with the parents and grandparents together to help them work out a mutually acceptable arrangement regarding access. Mediation is always confidential.

Family Mediation Services

01 634 4320

(Free)

(14 centres around Ireland).

www.welfare.ie/foi/fammedser.html

Mediators Institute of Ireland

(Private mediators)

www.mediatorsinsituteireland.ie

Legal Information

If mediation fails a parent can apply for access through the local District Court. A grandparent can apply for **leave to apply** for access through the local District Court under the Children Act 1997.

Grandparents often are reluctant to take legal action because of the fear of causing further strains to what already may be a difficult relationship and because of the considerable cost of legal proceedings. You need to balance up all the issues before making a final decision.

Obtaining access for grandparents is a two tiered process. The first application is applying for **leave to apply** for access which is basically asking for the court's permission to apply for access. The Court, in arriving at the decision at this stage, must always have regard to:

- the applicant's connection with the child
- the risk, if any, of the application disrupting the child's life to the extent that the child would be harmed by it
- the wishes of the child's guardian(s).

If you are successful at this first stage then you can make the second application to the District Court for the access itself. It is not possible for the court to order indirect access – that is contact by letter, e-mail etc.



The Legal Aid Board

066 947 1000 www.legalaidboard.ie

As a general guideline if your disposable income is over €13,000 you will not be eligible for legal aid.

Waiting times at most Legal Aid Centres can be long.

Grandparents may:

- employ a solicitor. Check that they have expertise in the family law area
- make this application themselves through their local District Court and go on to represent themselves in Court
- apply for Legal Aid. This is a state funded range of civil legal services at low cost to people unable to fund such services from their own resources.

Get a copy of *Taking The Stand – Resolving Disputes in Relation to Children* from **Treoir**. €5.

If everything else fails....

and you are unable to be in touch with your grandchild for whatever reason it may help to

- write (but do not post) birthday or Christmas cards or letters
- make a tape telling the child how you miss and love them
- keep a diary of your day-to-day activities to help her/him understand your life
- keep a photo of the child visible.

Many grandparents worry that they may die without telling the grandchildren how they feel. It would be a good idea to ask a family member or friend to see to it that when you do die, and your grandchild comes looking for you, your mementos can be handed over on your behalf. A grandchild will treasure and be comforted by your simple mementos.



Concerns about the well-being and safety of your grandchild

Due to particular circumstances, some parents may find themselves unable to cope with the demands of caring for their children. You, as the grandparent, are naturally concerned about this. It is important, if possible, to talk to the parents about your concerns, offer them what support you can and suggest they seek professional help. It could be helpful for them to contact their GP, Public Health Nurse or the Duty Social Worker in the local health centre for advice and guidance on how to approach this particular family situation. You yourself, as grandparent can also approach the Duty Social Worker for advice. This would not be an official report and no identifying information would be necessary.



Where you think your grandchild's safety is **at risk** in the care of the parents or others, and you are seriously concerned about this, contact the Social Work Department of your local health board. To make an official report you will be required to give specific and witnessed instances where your grandchild's safety is at risk. The Duty Social Worker will investigate the matter and will establish the degree of risk. Following this a family support plan may be put in place or the health board may have to provide alternative care for your grandchild.

There are occasions when the health board may decide to place children with extended family, including grandparents, on a relative care basis. Should grandparents be

assessed as relative carers they will be required to co-operate fully with the health board under the Child Care (Placement of Children with Relatives) Regulations 1995, in the best interest of the children.

Reporting suspected abuse or harmful behaviour towards your grandchild is a very serious matter and you must be very clear about the information you are reporting. However, if you have serious and well founded fears for the safety of your grandchild such concerns should not be ignored.

The statutory guidelines on child abuse as stated in **Children First** outline clearly the different categories of child abuse and provide information on them. These are: neglect, emotional abuse, physical abuse and sexual abuse.

Get a copy of

Our children first – a parent's guide to the National Child Protection guidelines from Barnardo's (Free).

National Guidelines for the Protection and Welfare of Children.

Department of Health and Children, 1999 from Government Publications.

USEFUL ADDRESSES

Treoir

Treoir operates the National Information Centre for Unmarried Parents and their Children providing free and confidential information in relation to legal rights, social welfare entitlements and general supports available to unmarried parents and their children

14 Gandon House, Custom House Square
I.F.S.C.
Dublin 1
01 6700 120
Email: info@treoir.ie
Web: www.treoir.ie

PREGNANCY COUNSELLING SERVICES

Crisis Pregnancy Counselling Services Midland Health Board

21 Church Street
Tullamore
Co Offaly
0506 27141
1800 200 857
Email: crisispregnancy.counselling@mhb.ie

Crisis Pregnancy Support

Ballinasloe
Co Galway
1850 200 600
0909 648190
Email:
crisispregnancysupport.portiuncula@whb.ie

CURA

30 South Anne Street,
Dublin 2
01 671 0598
1850 62 26 26
Email: cura@iol.ie
Web: www.cura.ie

Dublin Well Woman Centre

67 Pembroke Road
Dublin 4
01 660 9860
Email: info@wellwomancentre.ie
Web: www.wellwomancentre.ie

IFPA

Head Office
Solomons House
42A Pearse St.
Dublin 2
01 474 0944
1850 49 50 51
Email: post@ifpa.ie
Web: www.ifpa.ie

Life Pregnancy Care Service

29/30 Dame Street
Dublin 2
01 679 8989
1850 281 281
Email: lifenational@eircom.net
Web: www.life.ie

One Family

Cherish House
2 Lower Pembroke Street
Dublin 2
01 662 9212
1890 66 22 12
Email: info@onefamily.ie
Web: www.onefamily.ie

PACT

15 Belgrave Road
Rathmines
Dublin 6
01 497 6788
1850 67 33 33
Email: pact@eircom.net
Web: www.pact.ie

Pregnancy Counselling & Support Service

Social Work Department
Mayo General Hospital
Castlebar, Co. Mayo
1890 200 022

HEALTH BOARDS

For services provided by G.P.s, Public Health Nurses, Social Workers, Addiction Counsellors etc.

Eastern Regional Health Authority

Serving Dublin, Kildare, Wicklow.
Customer Services
Freephone 1800 520 520

Midland Health Board

Serving
Laois, Longford, Offaly, Westmeath.
Arden Road
Tullamore
Co. Offaly
0506 21868
Web: www.mhb.ie

Mid-Western Health Board

Serving Clare, Limerick, Tipperary N.R.
31-33 Catherine Street
Limerick
061 316 655
Web: www.mwhb.ie

North-Eastern Health Board

Serving
Cavan, Louth, Meath, Monaghan.
Navan Road
Kells
Co. Meath
046 40341
Web: www.nehb.ie

North-Western Health Board

Serving Donegal, Leitrim, Sligo.
Manorhamilton
Co. Leitrim
072 20400
Web: www.nwhb.ie

South-Eastern Health Board

Serving Carlow, Kilkenny, Tipperary S.R.,
Waterford, Wexford.
Lacken
Dublin Road
Kilkenny
056 51702
Web: www.sehb.ie

Southern Health Board

Serving Cork, Kerry.
Áras Sláinte
Dennehy's Cross
Wilton Road
Cork
021 545 011
Web: www.shb.ie

Western Health Board

Serving Galway, Mayo, Roscommon.
Regional Hospital
Merlin Park
Galway
091 751 131
Web: www.whb.ie

MEDIATION SERVICES

Family Mediation Service

(under the auspices of the Family Support Agency) provides mediation in 14 centres around the country.
Floor 1, St Stephen's Green House
Earlsfort Terrace
Dublin 2
01 6344 320
Email: fmsearlsfort@oceanfree.net
Web: www.welfare.ie/foi/fammedser.html

For information on Private Mediation Services contact:

Mediators Institute of Ireland
72 Beech Park Road
Foxrock
Dublin 18
Email: info@mediatorsinstituteireland.ie
Web: www.mediatorsinstituteireland.ie

OTHER SERVICES

Adoption Board

Shelbourne House
Shelbourne Road
Ballsbridge
Dublin 4.
01 667 1392
Web: www.adoptionboard.ie

Al Anon

5 Capel Street
Dublin 2
01 873 2699
10.30 – 2.30
(Offers support to grandparents and other family members where a child is abusing alcohol)
Web: www.al-anonuk.org.uk

Barnardos

Christ Church Square
Dublin 8
01 453 0355
1850 222 300
Email: info@barnardos.ie
Web: www.barnardos.ie

Citizens Information Centre

See your local Golden Pages.
Web: www.oasis.gov.ie

Department of Social & Family Affairs

Information Section
01 704 3000
Web: www.welfare.ie

Government Publications

Molesworth Street
Dublin 2.
01 647 6879

Local Drugs Task Forces

For a list
Web:
www.pobail.ie/en/NationalDrugsStrategy/TheLocalDrugsTaskForcesLDTFs/

Family Law Office

District Court
Dolphin House
East Essex Street
Dublin 2
01 872 5555

local District Courts

For a list Web: www.courts.ie

Family Resources Centres

info@frcnf.com
For a list Web: www.frcnf.com/

FLAC

Free Legal Advice Centres
13 Lr. Dorset Street
Dublin 1
01 874 5690
Email: flac@connect.ie
Web: www.flac.ie

Grandparents Obliterated

Una Hayden
01 454 7401 6 – 7pm only

Irish Foster Care Association of Ireland

1st Floor, The Pharmacy
Mayfield Terrace
Ballinteer, Dublin 16
01 2961083
Email: info@ifca.ie
Web: www.ifca.ie

ISPCC

Central Office
20 Molesworth Street
Dublin 2
01-6794944
Email: ispcc@ispcc.ie
Web: www.ispcc.ie

Legal Aid Board

Quay Street
Cahiriveen
Co. Kerry
066 947 1000
For a list of local centres:
Web: www.legalaidboard.ie

Money Advice & Budgeting Services

National Co-ordinator 021 491 7476
Or see your local yellow pages
Web: www.mabs.ie

Office of the Wards of Court

01 8886189 / 01 8886140
Web: www.courts.ie.

Parentline

(helpline for parents under stress)
Carmichael Centre
North Brunswick Street
Dublin 7
01 8733 500
Email: Parentline@eircom.net
Web: www.parentline.ie



Treoir has many **Publications** *available*

Information Pack for Unmarried Parents

Work it Out! – a guide for parents on One-Parent Family Payment (re)entering the workforce or education

Taking the Stand – a guide for unmarried parents resolving disputes regarding care of their children €5

Family Links: steps and stages – shared parenting and step-families €5

Pregnant and thinking about adoption?

Directory of lone parent groups in Ireland

Resource pack for workers with young parents
(pilot phase - Dublin 8, 10, 12, Galway, Limerick)

Regular information Bulletin /

Newsletter for those working with young parents
(send us your name and address)

A series of free Information Leaflets are also available:

- 1.** The Children Act 1997 (guardianship by agreement)
- 2.** The Non-Fatal Offences against the Person Act 1997 (harassment)
- 3.** Guardianship, access, custody
- 4.** Shared parenting
- 5.** Rights of unmarried fathers
- 6.** Maintenance
- 7.** Family adoption (mothers and husbands)
- 8.** Passport applications
- 9.** Ante/post natal accommodation
- 10.** Birth registration
- 11.** Cohabitation
- 12.** Unmarried parents and equality legislation
- 13.** Unmarried parents, not just a single issue

The National Federation of Services for
Unmarried Parents and their Children



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