

**24/07/2009**

**New-look Information Pack for parents who are not married to each other.**

Not only are there many more unmarried parents (3.7% of all births in 1975 compared with 33% in 2008), but more than half of them are cohabiting. Significantly, over 44% of first births are to unmarried parents.

Funded by the Crisis Pregnancy Agency the new-look Pack is designed to engage young unmarried parents, 70% of whom are under 25.

In addition to information on Social Welfare entitlements this Pack contains legal information for unmarried parents. Many parents, especially cohabiting parents do not realise that the fathers do not have automatic rights to their children. This can result in cases like the G case where Mr. G.'s children were removed from Ireland without his permission. Parents assume, wrongly, that if the father's name is on the birth certificate the father has rights in respect of his child. The father has to take action to become a legal guardian.

It is vital that this information is made known to parents.

Copies are available free of charge from Treoir, 01 – 6700 120, LoCall 1890 252 084, [info@treoir.ie](mailto:info@treoir.ie).

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