

PRESS RELEASE

Children have a right to know who they are

Treoir welcomes the proposal to introduce legislation for compulsory joint birth registration where the parents are not married to each other. This move, which was recommended by the Law Reform Commission, recognises a child's right to an identity and Treoir fully supports this. Children need to know as much as possible about both their parents, so that they will have a good sense of their own identity and personal history. Having the father's name on the child's birth certificate is an important step in achieving this.

While Treoir favours unmarried fathers having greater guardianship rights than at present it does not support linking birth registration to joint guardianship rights for all unmarried fathers. A system needs to be developed which would facilitate the granting of guardianship rights more equitably than at present.

Unmarried mothers are automatically guardians of their children. It is a common misconception that having a father's name on his child's birth certificate gives him guardianship rights. It does not. Unmarried fathers can acquire guardianship rights by signing a statutory declaration with the mother or by applying to the local district court.

Treoir believes that it is a child's fundamental human right to have the names of both parents on his/her birth certificate.

Margaret Dromey.

CEO

01 6700 120

087 2263 163

About Treoir

Treoir is the Irish word for direction and guidance.

Treoir is a membership organisation which promotes the rights of unmarried parents (both opposite and same sex) and their children in Ireland.

Treoir operates a National Specialist Information Service for unmarried expectant parents, unmarried parents, their families and those involved with them and advocates on their behalf.

LoCall 1890 252 084. info@treoir.ie www.treoir.ie