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| **Spring EDITION 2019** |

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| **In this issue:*** **SAVE the DATE - Treoir AGM May 28th 2019**
* **Joint Oireachtas Committee - Submission**
* **Social Welfare Payment Increase to commence**
* **TREOIR - National Information Service**
* **Treoir Outreach Services 2019**
* **Teen Parents Support Programme 2019**
* **Resources for parents who are experiencing difficulty**
* **In the Spotlight: Temporary Guardianship and Testamentary Guardianship**
* **Members' Corner**
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| **Treoir 2019 Annual General Meeting** |

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| **Please Save the Date Treoir will hold its AGM on 28 MayVenue TBC** |

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| **Oireachtas Committee Submission** |

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| **Treoir made a submission to the Joint Oireachtas Committee onJustice and Equality on Family Law Reform**5 March 2019 Treoir, the National Federation of Services for Unmarried Parents and their Children today called on the Minister for Justice and Equality to extend guardianship rights to all fathers and to ensure the National Mediation Service is properly resourced. Speaking at a meeting of the Joint Oireachtas Committee on Justice and Equality on reform of the family law system Treoir’s CEO Damien Peelo said: “We welcome the changes to family law in Ireland, however significant problems remain in terms of how the legal system and family court structure operates.  In Ireland, unmarried fathers do not have guardianship rights even if their name is on the child’s birth certificate. This is out of step with international best practice and with the North of Ireland where the law was changed in 2002 acknowledging father’s rights. “ He went on to say the family mediation service is grossly under resourced and that this has significant consequences for shared parenting and for parents who are unable to afford often costly legal services. Calling on the Minister for Justice to introduce a properly resourced Alternative Dispute Resolution system, Peelo said “we need a family law system that is fit for purpose in twentieth- first century Ireland and that everyone, irrespective of means, can access.” Treoir also called on the Oireachtas Committee to recommend to the Minister the immediate introduction of a public information campaign to inform people about access, custody, guardianship, and maintenance and other important aspects of family law.Read full submission here [https://bit.ly/2EXj2Sk](https://bit.ly/2TGo1jH)Watch video here <https://bit.ly/2TGo1jH>   |

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| **Social Welfare Payment Increases** |

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| **Almost 1.5 million to Gain as Budget 2019 Increases Commence*****Increases across all weekly schemes for recipients and dependants to come into effect next week*** **Wednesday, 20 March, 2019:** The Minister for Employment Affairs and Social Protection, Regina Doherty, T.D., today announced that the new increased rate of pensions and weekly social welfare increases introduced in Budget 2019 come into effect next week Budget 2019 included **€362 million** in additional social welfare expenditure, bringing the total social welfare spend to **€20.5 billion** for the year.The maximum personal rate of pension will increase by €5 per week for 637,340 pensioners aged 66 and over from week commencing 25 March - for themselves and 72,640 dependants. There will also be a €5 increase for 684,700 weekly welfare recipients including carers, widows, people with disabilities, lone parents, jobseekers, Maternity and Paternity Benefit recipients, Farm Assist recipients and Community Employment participants.Qualified adults and people receiving reduced rates of payment will receive proportional increases. Next week will also see the increases on weekly payments of €2.20 for dependent children aged under 12, and €5.20 for dependent children aged 12 and over, secured by Minister Doherty in the Budget. This will bring the qualified child increases to €34 per week and €37 per week respectively.Working lone parents who are receiving the One Parent Family Payment and Jobseeker’s Transitional Payment will now be able to earn an extra €20 per week, up to €150, and keep their full payment. Some 13,200 families will benefit from this which takes effect from next week.People receiving the Working Family Payment in receipt of maintenance will benefit from a new disregard of €95 per week in respect of housing costs.The weekly Fuel Allowance of €22.50 is being extended by one week this year until 12 April.  Some 373,800 households will benefit. |

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| **TREOIR - National Information Service** |

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| **National Specialist Information Centre Treoir provides a free, confidential and up-to-date information and referral service for unmarried parents whether living together or not, and the agencies involved with them.****The information service has helped many unmarried parents as they navigate their new roles as either cohabiting couples or newly separated.Below are some of the testimonials from parents, professionals, family and friends who use the services of Treoir.** "we have contacted many other services looking for information on my brothers rights, and didn't get anything like the information you have provided, things were very frustrating, thank you so much for your help, everything is much clearer now, and things don't seem so bad, there is a way out" Unmarried single father - October 2018'thank you so much for speaking with me, I can actually see light at the end of the tunnel" Unmarried single mother - November 2018"was so stressed before calling, thank you for your help" Unmarried single father - November 2018"Thank you for calling me today. I have taken your advise and gone to the court clerks and signed paperwork for access and guardianship. I really appreciate your advise and helping me with this situation. Without Treoir I would not have known how to act on this so effectively and in such a timely manner." Unmarried single father - November 2018"Thank you, I really appreciate your help, I had no idea you had so much information on housing, and other areas, I'm delighted to hear about the other supports available" Cohabiting step-parent" December 2018 Call us today with your questions at **01 6700 120, or visit www.treoir.ie**If you wish to help Treoir to continue to carry out this invaluable work, please donate using the button below.Your contributions are greatly appreciated.Thank you, from Treoir |

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| [**Donate**](https://www.treoir.ie/contact/donate/) |

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| **Treoir Outreach 2019** |

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| **https://gallery.mailchimp.com/a20b4ce29ae08abacf79421e2/images/0b45dd0f-a45d-409a-ba59-1ff4ced9b82b.pngTREOIR OUTREACH INFORMATION SERVICES**Treoir has a long history of providing free workshops to * groups of unmarried parents/grandparents  and
* groups of workers who provide services to unmarried parents.

The aim of the workshops is to provide accurate and up to date information on matters of relevance to parents and their children. Topics covered include: * the legal rights and responsibilities of parents who have never married each other – such as guardianship, access, custody, cohabitation, adoption
* social welfare allowances -- One-Parent Family Payment, Job Seeker’s Transitional Payment, Working Family Payment (formerly known as Family Income Supplement) Back to Education Allowance, Guardian’s Payment,  Maternity Benefit, Paternity Benefit, Habitual Residence Condition
* shared parenting and explaining family relationships to children.

**WORKSHOPS ARE TAILORED TO RESPOND TO THE NEEDS OF INDIVIDUAL GROUPS!****NOTE**: The **CHILDREN AND FAMILY RELATIONSHIPS ACT 2015** radically changed family law.  **TREOIR IS HAPPY TO HOST FREE WORKSHOPS FOR ORGANISATIONS ON THIS SIGNIFICANT NEW LEGISLATION.**The workshop will brief participants on the provisions of the Children and Family Relationships Act 2015 which were commenced on the 18th January 2016.  These provisions relate primarily to guardianship, custody, access and maintenance. They include the following: * A non-marital father will automatically become the guardian of his child if he lives with the child’s mother for at least twelve consecutive months including not less than three months after the child’s birth. The three months period does not have to take place directly after the birth of the child. It can be fulfilled any time before the child turns 18 provided that it is part of the twelve consecutive months during which the parents have lived together.  **Until now unmarried fathers have never been automatic guardians of their children.** The cohabitation requirement is not retrospective: only cohabitation after the commencement date is taken into account, however, this does not just apply to newborns. The Act was commenced on the 18th January 2016.
* A person other than a parent may become a child’s guardian. It will be possible for step-parents, grandparents and others who act in loco parentis to apply for guardianship.
* The Act allows relatives and certain persons to apply for custody of a child.
* Where there is a court order in place for either access or custody and the access or custody is either unreasonably denied or not taken up, a parent/guardian of the child may apply to the court for an Enforcement Order. The enforcement order may provide for one or more of the following:
	+ that a parent and /or guardian be granted additional access to the child
	+ that a parent and /or guardian be reimbursed for any expenses they may have had as a result of the unreasonable refusal to either take up or allow the access
	+ that either or both parties do one or more of the following: receive information about the availability of mediation, attend a parenting programme, attend family counselling.
* It will be possible for a parent who is a guardian and has custody of a child to nominate a person to act as a temporary guardian in the event of the parent becoming incapable of exercising the rights and responsibilities of guardianship through serious illness or injury.  An application can be made to the court for the appointment of the nominated person as a temporary guardian if the parent later becomes incapable through serious illness or injury of exercising the rights and responsibilities of guardianship.

 FOR INFORMATION ON TREOIR WORKSHOPS CONTACT: **VERONICA BLACK - INFORMATION & TRAINING OFFICER**veronica@treoir.ie   |

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| **Teen Parents Support Programme (TPSP) 2019** |

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| **Teen Parents Support Programme**Focus on Fathers**Free one-day Workshop****Thursday 16th May 2019****9.30am to 4.30pmAshling Hotel Hotel,Parkgate Street, Dublin 8** BackgroundCurrently the needs of young fathers tend to be largely forgotten by family support services. At the same time research is telling us that being involved in the lives of their children brings enormous benefits to both the children and the fathers themselves. Young fathers, in particular, face numerous obstacles in participating in the lives of their children. For the most part they are not living with the mother of their child. They are often viewed as the ‘villain’ in the situation and are dependent on the attitudes of both sets of families and of professionals with whom they come in contact. Free WorkshopThe TPSP is offering a free one-day Workshop for professionals who have contact with young fathers.The aims of the Workshop are to:\* raise awareness regarding the value of fatherhood in a child’s life\* explore the obstacles which some young fathers face in becoming involved in their child’s life\* reflect on one’s own attitudes and values and how they may shape one’s approach to working with young fathers and their families\* introduce participants to the use of the Young Dads Resource Pack and other material relevant to their work with young fathers. The Workshop will incorporate information, discussion and experiential learning. As this is a one-day Workshop only, it is assumed that participants will already possess a basic level of skill in facilitating groups and/or one- to- one work. All participants will receive a USB key of the Young Dads Resource Pack and other relevant material. To apply for this Workshop please complete the form attached and return to Margaret Morris, National Co-ordinator, TPSP, tpsp@treoir.ie. 087 2518428.Closing date for applications is Friday 26th April 2019 **TPSP Toolkit Workshop 2019**Through their experience of working with teenage parents, TPSP project staff have built up knowledge and skills which have helped them work effectively with this vulnerable group. The TPSP has developed a resource based on that experience called The TPSP Toolkit. The TPSP ran a free one-day Workshop, based on the Toolkit, for professionals working with pregnant and parenting teens and their families which was as success and very well attended. TPSP hold these workshops on an annual basis. If you would like any further information please contact Margaret Morris whose details are below. https://gallery.mailchimp.com/a20b4ce29ae08abacf79421e2/images/4b744104-3000-41f0-b937-222f1cc05259.jpghttps://gallery.mailchimp.com/a20b4ce29ae08abacf79421e2/images/05078ddd-29ee-4176-82ef-fd889b9f3904.jpgFor more information contact: **Margaret Morris**, TPSP National Co-ordinator at **E:**tpsp@treoir.ie. or**M:** 087-2518428 |

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| **Resources for parents who are experiencingdifficulty** |

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| * You can contact the Information team at [Treoir](http://treoir.ie/index.php) by email at **info@treoir.ie**or**call**our confidential helpline**01 670 0120**
* **Note**: Treoir have moved premises, we are now located at 28 North Great Georges Street, Dublin 1, D01 HY46
* For parenting courses offered nationwide see [Barnardos.ie](https://us15.admin.mailchimp.com/templates/edit?id=64109)
* [One Family](https://onefamily.ie/) offer [Parenting Supports](https://onefamily.ie/how-we-support-families/parenting-supports/) **online** and face-to-face
* [Amen](http://www.amen.ie/our-services/) who support men who have experienced or are experiencing domestic violence offer Parents Plus “Parenting When Separated” courses.
* [Aware](https://www.aware.ie/) offers free-of-charge [Life Skills Programmes](https://www.aware.ie/services/) **online**and group programmes to support people who are experiencing stress or anxiety.
* New Family Mediation Office operating in Carlow town from 17 December 2018 - Family Mediation Service, Carlow Courthouse, Court Place, Carlow

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| **In the Spotlight** |

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| **Guardianship - Testamentary and Temporary Guardianship**From time-to-time Treoir will include a SPOTLIGHT issue informed by reoccurring themes identified by our information team. In this issue, we wanted to highlight Temporary and Testamentary Guardianship. We have noted instances where parents who are guardians had failed to appoint a **testamentary** guardian to act on their behalf in the event of death before the child is eighteen. We have also noted that parents have failed to nominate a **temporary** guardian to act as a guardian in the event of serious illness or injury. It is important for all parents who are guardians to be aware of the importance of naming and/or nominating a qualifying guardian before their child turns eighteen. Please read details below which explains Testamentary and Temporary Guardianship further. **Guardians and Wills  –  Testamentary Guardianship**All parents who are guardians and other guardians who have the custody (day-to-day care) of a child should make a will appointing a guardian to act on their behalf in the event of their death before the child is 18.  This is especially important where a parent/guardian is a sole guardian. This is called **testamentary guardianship**. It is advisable to talk it over with someone who could and would be willing to act as guardian and get his/her consent to be named in the will as a testamentary guardian. The surviving guardian/s (if any) then act together with the testamentary guardian.  If a parent dies without appointing a guardian in a will it is possible for someone with an interest in the child to apply to the court to be appointed a guardian of the child.  **Temporary Guardianship**A qualifying guardian\* may nominate a person to act as a guardian if he/she is unable, through serious illness or injury, to exercise his/her guardianship rights.  The nomination must be made in writing and can specify the rights and responsibilities that the nominated person can exercise.  The nominated person must then apply to the court for guardianship rights when and if necessary.  Each guardian, parent and TUSLA the Child and Family Agency will be informed of such an application.  The decision of the court will be made in the best interests of the child and may take the views of the child into account where possible given the child’s age and understanding. You can download a nomination form here <https://bit.ly/2W3Y6zU>**\*A qualifying guardian, in relation to a child, means a person who is a guardian of that child and who:*** is the parent of the child and has custody of him/her, **or**
* not being the parent of the child, has custody of him or her to the exclusion of any living parent of the child.

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| **MEMBERS CORNER - a space for members to share information** |

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| https://gallery.mailchimp.com/a20b4ce29ae08abacf79421e2/images/cef0fa16-89d9-47c7-9b62-60530136d616.pngPress Release March 2018For over 30 years Doras Buí, has delivered high quality supports and programmes to parents, their children and extended families living in the Dublin North East.Our Resource Centre for lone parents and Early Years’ Service for children creates a unique, community space attended by over 300 adults and 75 children yearly.Doras Buí provides a safe, inclusive and welcoming space where diversity is recognised valued and affirmed. We work with Fathers and Mothers from a variety of backgrounds offering them information, support, guidance and solidarity often at times of crisis. Services we provide…\* Early Year’s Community Crèche\* Teen Parenting Support Programme\* Information and Support\* Adult training courses in personal effectiveness, life skills & careers\* Childcare and parenting workshops, talks & seminars\* Adult & Child Counselling There has been a huge increase in homelessness which hits the most vulnerable in society the hardest. Four out of five homeless families are lone parent families. Housing and childcare have always been the most challenging issues for lone parents, with landlords increasing rents and childcare costs increasing, the barriers to education and employment continue to snowball.Doras Buí is in Coolock but covers a large geographic catchment area in North Dublin. We provide inhouse programmes and outreach services too. Doras Buí has supported lone parent families through a lot of challenges this year as most of our clients are women, it was an emotional roller coaster ride. We have very competitive rates for our Early years’ service and excellent, qualified early years staff. We run programmes to support and empower participants with their mental health, parenting skills, and upskilling with a view to improving their employment and education opportunities.Due to some harmful media stereotypes lone parent families are often viewed in a negative way. There was a positive change this year with the launch of the research carried out on Unmarried Father’s in Ireland. One of the findings of this research was that shared parenting is a more positive experience for children and families. Doras Buí has a plan in place to engage more unmarried Father’s in 2019 by linking in with local and national agencies.Lone parents face a lot of adversity, but we help them to focus on their strengths. We support them and meet them where they are at, where necessary we will provide supports and encourage them to return to education or employment.We currently have an afternoon administration CE position open, contact Doras Buí to apply.Our aim is to equip the participants with enough tools so that they no longer need to use our services.https://gallery.mailchimp.com/a20b4ce29ae08abacf79421e2/images/085b0d23-12ff-4c0a-a895-a45f4b38dad4.pnghttps://gallery.mailchimp.com/a20b4ce29ae08abacf79421e2/images/e847c65a-4f16-4432-a871-b9b4d2fd67f7.png  |

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| **If you would like to add anything of interest to Members Corner, in our Summer Edition, please send your contributions to**[sam@treoir.ie](http://sam@treoir.ie/)**before 30 June 2019.****We look forward to reading your contributions!** |

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| **Disclaimer**: While every effort has been made to ensure that the information in this eBulletin is accurate, no responsibility can be accepted by Treoir for any error or omission. |

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| [**Treoir - map location**](https://www.google.ie/maps/place/Treoir%2B-National%2BFederation%2Bof%2BServices%2Bfor%2BUnmarried%2BParents%2Band%2Btheir%2BChildren/%4053.3536718%2C-6.2617794%2C17z/data%3D%213m1%214b1%214m5%213m4%211s0x48670e8cff4dbd35%3A0x918fadcd575e21f3%218m2%213d53.3536686%214d-6.2595907?hl=en) |

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