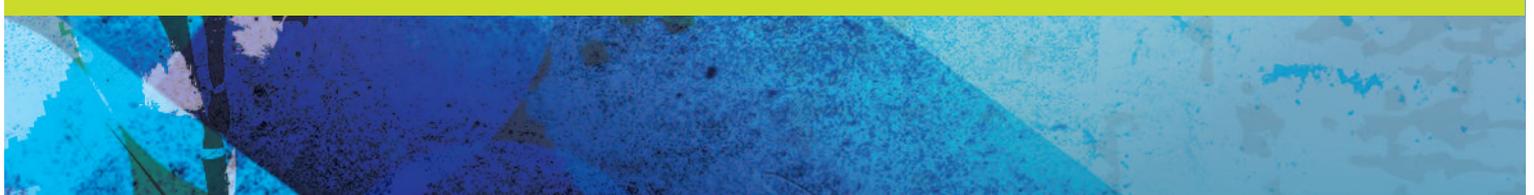


SOCIAL WORK & CHILD WELFARE





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Social Work And Child Welfare

There are many agencies who work with families and sometimes families may need to avail of external support. Family life is not always easy. Life events like birth, death, depression, addiction, redundancy, separation, illness, abuse or financial problems all put stress and strain on family life and relationships.

Family Support

The Child and Family Agency (TUSLA) provide a range of services that offer advice and support to families. These include family support workers, social workers, youth workers, family resource centres, support groups and counselling services. These types of services help families work through difficult issues, ensure children have a stable environment to live in, and provide support for parents who are finding it hard to cope.

Family Support is a style of work and a wide range of activities that strengthen positive informal social networks through community based programmes and services. The main focus of these services is on early intervention, aiming to promote and protect the health, well-being and rights of all children, young people and their families. At the same time, particular attention is given to those who are vulnerable or at risk. There are Family Services available in Galway, Mayo and Roscommon. They work with families who have children under the age of 18 years.

If your family needs the help of more than one service to meet your child's needs, there is a meeting called a 'Meitheal' which can be called with your permission. This meeting involves all services sitting around the table along with you to discuss what help you need for your child. The information discussed at this meeting can only be shared with your permission and it saves you telling your story again and again to different practitioners. From this meeting a shared plan is created which everybody, including you as the parent, shares and works from.

Child Protection & Welfare

The Child and Family Agency (Tusla) has a primary responsibility to promote the safety and well-being of children. An Garda Síochána also have statutory responsibilities for the safety and welfare of children.

The Child Protection Services should always be informed when a person has reasonable grounds for concern that a child may have been, is being, or is at risk of being abused or neglected. It is important to remember the safety and well-being of the child must take priority and that reports should be made without delay.

You can contact your local Tusla office and ask to speak to the duty social worker if you have concerns about any children you are in contact with or if you wish to seek support yourself.

Refer to Information on Support Services section or www.supportme.ie for details on supports available