

**THE IRISH FOSTER CARE ASSOCIATION IS SADDENED BY THE RTE INVESTIGATES REVELATIONS LAST NIGHT.**

**Tuesday 30<sup>th</sup> May 2017:** It is an unfortunate indictment on our society that an average of two children per day are removed from their birth family under Section 12 of the Child Care Act 1991. Being removed from their family and taken into care is a traumatic event in any child's life. This is further compounded when that removal is by way of a Section 12 at the hands of the Gardai and there is no emergency care placement for that child apart from a Garda station or hospital.

We cannot stand over adding to this trauma. A fit for purpose out of hour's service has to be available for all children and young people who require emergency accommodation. This accommodation must ensure the child feels safe, in a welcoming environment and is supported to help deal with the trauma they have encountered.

Catherine Bond, IFCA CEO, states; "We need a fully resourced, 24hr social work service that meets the needs of the most vulnerable of our children. All who are involved in this service must be adequately trained to deal with the complex needs of these children. Foster carers who provide emergency care placements must be fully supported to deal with the possible impact of these placements on their own families. No foster carer should be asked to manage a potential high level of risk without comprehensive training and support and appropriate information about the child coming into their care. The safety of all children should be paramount at all times."

**Ends**

**For further information**

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**Further information on the Irish Foster Care Association**

The Irish Foster Care Association is the representative body for foster care in Ireland. Child-centred and rights-based, IFCA promotes excellence in foster care so that children have the best chances in life. We aim to accomplish this by providing information, support, and learning opportunities for all those involved in foster care through our direct work in Advocacy, Branch Development, Support, and Learning and Development. We are an independent, membership-led organisation. IFCA's National Support Helpline runs every week day from 11.00am - 3.00pm and can be contacted at 01 458 5123