

STATEMENT

The Irish Foster Care Association is concerned by the report published today into the use of Section 12 by An Garda Síochána. The safety and wellbeing of children has to be at the centre of any legislation and at the core of decision making when dealing with vulnerable children being removed from their home. Children being taken into care under Section 12 need to be placed in a safe and appropriate environment. All involved in dealing with these children should be adequately trained and supported to deal with the complex needs of these children.

We are aware that Tusla is presently developing an emergency out-of-hours service that aims to co-operate and support the Garda Síochána in the execution of their duties and responsibilities under Section 12 and we would call on Tusla to role out this service nationwide as a matter of priority.

Ends

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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