



ÚDARÁS UCHTÁLA na hÉIREANN  
THE ADOPTION AUTHORITY of IRELAND

## Adoption Authority of Ireland Press Release

Venue: Adoption Authority of Ireland, Shelbourne House, Dublin 4

### Seminar on the Implications for Children – Adoption Amendment Bill

#### Foster Care to Adoption – A New Era

1 December 2016

Seminar 10.30am, concludes 1pm

***Embargoed until 12 midnight 30/11/2016***

**Minister for Children and Youth Affairs, Dr Katherine Zappone** will today address a seminar organised by the Adoption Authority of Ireland which will consider the Implications for Children of the proposed Adoption Amendment Bill. The Bill opens a pathway for a significant number of children to become eligible for adoption from foster care.

Adoption is one care option for children and it provides identity and permanence within a family structure. Adoption is not the answer in every situation but where a child is in foster care without a realistic hope of returning home, adoption can allow the child a secure family that has legal permanence.

**Minister Zappone** stated:

“Hundreds of children in years of care will become eligible for adoption under the new adoption laws which I am bringing through the Oireachtas. The measures contained in the Bill put the rights of the child above all others and reflect family life in modern day Ireland. Today we must send that message out to children, parents and all who work with and support families”.

**Dr Geoffrey Shannon, Chairman of the Adoption Authority** said:

“The AAI continues to highlight the rights and best interests of children, and seeks to ensure that the voice of the child is heard in all adoption matters. In domestic adoption from long-term foster care, most children are of an age and level of maturity where they are consulted about the proposed adoption”.

The Adoption Authority believes that openness is central to all aspects of adoption. Dr Shannon stated:

“The Adoption Amendment Bill supports the principles of openness and transparency reflected in Articles 7 and 8 of the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child”.



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On the issue of the adoption of children from long-term foster care Dr Shannon said:

“The adoption of children in long-term foster care offers some children a second chance to enjoy the stability and permanence of a caring and loving family in line with Article 20 of the Convention of the Rights of the Child”.

**Ms Catherine Bond, CEO, Irish Foster Care Association** said:

“The adoption of children from long-term foster care will be informed by the “Best Interests principle” Article 3 of the UN Convention of the Rights of the Child, and as underpinned in the Children and Family Relations Act 2015. Any movement of children from long term foster care to Adoption will be required to take place in a considered way taking the views of all those involved, the child, the foster carers and the birth family of the child”.

In 2016 to date, there have been 18 adoption orders granted from foster care.

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Note to Editor: Speakers’ bios are available by email, and to pre-confirm interviews, contact [margaret\\_hopkinson@aai.gov.ie](mailto:margaret_hopkinson@aai.gov.ie)