

One Family
needs you!



As my local candidate for the General Election 2016 I am asking you to commit to the six steps to changes outlined in the One Family Manifesto.

One Family, who represent those parenting alone, sharing parenting and parenting after separation need you to be aware of the following:

1. Work to end child poverty in Ireland.

FACT: Those living in lone parent households continue to experience the highest rates of deprivation with almost 60% of individuals from these households experiencing one or more forms of deprivation (EU-SILC 2014).

FACT: Children living in one parent family households are almost twice as likely to live in poverty than other children (EU-SILC 2014).

FACT: The average household has a net worth seven times greater than the average for a single parent household (TASC 2014).

2. Ensure that work pays for everyone.

Designing the social welfare system to ensure that work pays through tapered supports is vital. In-work supports (such as Family Income Supplement) needs to be reviewed to assess if they are working effectively to reduce in-work poverty. Barriers to accessing education, training or employment must be removed.

3. Undertake a full review of the One Parent Family Payment reforms and the impact they have had on child poverty and employment rates for lone parents.

Social welfare should be a support for vulnerable families and not subject to cuts without appropriate supports in place. It is imperative that government establishes whether these reforms have had their intended outcome and what supports or adjustments are needed to reverse the negative impacts on already vulnerable families and their children.

4. Support shared parenting.

It is now common for parents to share parenting of their children following separation and we know it is in children's best interests to have a relationship with both parents, where possible. This must be understood and supported in government policies and services. The current tax credit entitlements of people parenting alone do not support shared parenting and need to be reviewed and amended to reflect the reality of sharing parenting following relationship breakdown.

5. Recognise and protect all families in the Constitution, not just married families.

Article 41 is out-dated in the 21st century and discriminates against many families in Ireland. Our nation's children will not be equally cherished and protected until this aspect of our constitution is changed.

6. Invest in our family law courts and services.

They are in crisis and need serious investment to ensure the safety and wellbeing of many children and their parents. The Children & Family Relationships Act needs to be fully implemented with accompanying budgets to ensure the law is workable.