

ROTUNDA HOSPITAL

Medical Social Work Department

Medical Social Work



Parnell Square, D01P5W9
ED, Ultrasound, Physio, Day Assessment,
Private Clinic



North Earl St, D01T6W2
OPD, POPD, Allied Health,
MSW Dept located on the 5th Floor

Medical Social Work

Where can you find us?

- The Medical Social Work Department is located on the 5th Floor of Hampson House.
- We can also meet you in the main hospital or on the ward before or after you deliver your baby.
- You are all attached to one of 4 Obstetric Teams; A, B, C and D and there is a social worker attached to each of these teams. So everyone attending the Rotunda has a designated social worker, should they wish to avail of the service.

Medical Social Work Team

- 7 Specialist Clinics:

Perinatal Mental
Health

DOVE

Pregnancy Options

Fetal Medicine
Unit

Bereavement

Inclusion Health

NICU

Teenage
Pregnancy

Medical Social Work

CONTACT DETAILS

- Tel: 01 8171722
- Email: socialwork@rotunda.ie
- Our Medical Social Work Secretaries can establish who your medical social worker is and make an appointment for you to speak with her face to face or over the phone.
- You can also call to the 5th floor of Hampson House to make an appointment or possibly speak to your medical social that day, if she is available.

Medical Social Work

WHAT CAN WE HELP YOU WITH?

- Medical Social Work offers confidential information, support and counselling to all patients (public, private, semi-private) attending the Rotunda, as required.
- Pregnancy is a time of change and, whether a shock or anticipated, like all change we face as human beings, it can bring its own concerns, worries or questions, we've never needed to ask before.
- We would encourage you to link in with us as soon as possible and if we don't have the specific information you are looking for we can signpost you to an appropriate service.

Benefits and Entitlements

- If you have questions regarding benefits and entitlements, we suggest you look at the **Citizens Information** website which is a government website also providing links to other sites related to pregnancy.

Web: <https://www.citizensinformation.ie/>

Phone: 0761 07 4000 (Monday to Friday, 9am to 8pm).

- **Treoir** – National Specialist Information Service for Unmarried Parents

Web: <https://www.Treoir.ie>

Phone: 01 6700120



Benefits and Entitlements

If you're working and expecting a baby:

ANTENATAL LEAVE

- If you are employed, you are entitled to take paid time off work to attend your antenatal appointments and one set of antenatal classes (except for the last 3 classes in a set).
- Expectant partners have a once-off right to paid time off work to attend the 2 antenatal classes immediately prior to the birth.

MAIN STATUTORY LEAVES AND BENEFITS

- Maternity Leave and Benefit
- Paternity Leave and Benefit
- Parents Leave and Benefit
- Parental Leave (unpaid)

Benefits and Entitlements

The easiest way to apply for Maternity related benefits for you and your partner is online via www.mywelfare.ie

To use mywelfare online services, you must create a MyGovID account

- Basic MyGovID account
- Verified MyGovID account – needed to apply for benefits online

To upgrade from a basic account to a verified MyGovID, you need:

- A Personal Public Service (PPS) number
- A Public Service Card (PSC)

If you do not have a PSC, you can apply:

- Using the MyGovID app (new)
- In-person at a PSC Centre/Intreo Office

You can also print off any application form, fill it out and post it!



Maternity Leave

- **Legally entitled to 26 weeks of maternity leave.**
- Option of taking an additional 16 weeks leave (always unpaid).
- You are entitled to your full annual leave for the period you are on leave.
- You get back any public holidays falling during your leave.
- You should apply to your employer a month before you start maternity leave and provide a medical cert from your doctor, confirming your pregnancy.
- **Maternity leave must start at least two weeks before your baby's due date**, and then when you're due to go back to work you must give your employer a months notice in writing of the date you're coming back.

Maternity Benefit

- If you are working and satisfy the appropriate PRSI contributions, you will be eligible for Maternity Benefit (one example of how you qualify – have worked 39 weeks in the 52 weeks prior to the first day of your Maternity Leave).
- Payment of €289 for 26 weeks. If your baby of born early, you can apply for additional weeks.
- Some employers pay women their full salary when on maternity leave but there is no legal obligation to do so.
- You have to be **at least 24 weeks pregnant before you apply** for Maternity Benefit and you should apply **6 weeks before you intend to commence** your maternity leave (12 weeks if self-employed).

Paternity Leave and Benefit

- Partners are legally entitled to 2 weeks Paternity Leave within the 6 months following their baby's birth.
- 2 weeks must be taken consecutively.
- Paternity Benefit is €289 per week and is based on having the appropriate number of social insurance (PRSI) contributions.
- Apply at least 4 weeks before you intend to go on paternity leave.
- Your partner's employer needs to complete form PB2: Employer Certificate for Paternity Benefit. Form PB3 completed by GP if self-employed.
- Forms need to be uploaded to mywelfare.ie, if applying online.

Parents Leave and Benefit

- Can only apply after your baby's birth.
- Since August 2024, both working parents have an equal and separate entitlement to take **9 weeks** Parent's Leave during the first two years of a child's life.
- You need to give your employer 6 weeks' notice.
- It can be taken as one continuous period or as separate periods of not less than one week.
- **Parents Benefit** is €289 per week, if you've paid enough PRSI.
- Apply for Parent Benefit 4 weeks before taking the Parents Leave.
- You will need:
 - Your baby's PPS number
 - Your employer's ERN (Employer's Registration Number)
 - Your own declaration that your employer has approved

Parental Leave (Unpaid)

- Up until your child's 12th Birthday, both working parents have separate entitlements to 26 weeks **unpaid** Parental Leave.
- You can take it in one block period, 2 blocks of 6 weeks, (has to be 10 weeks in between) or you can take it one day a week (e.g. you could work 4 days a week).
- Taking one day a week is at your employers discretion (130 days/ 2.5 years taking one day a week).
- You have to give 6 weeks' notice to your employer for parental leave.
- If you're working part time, the parental leave is reduced and is on a pro rata basis.

Exceptional Needs Payments

- There is a Supplementary Welfare Allowance (SWA) payment towards additional maternity expenses i.e. maternity clothes, items for coming into hospital and a contribution towards purchasing a cot and pram (only when your baby is born).
- Means tested and based on an expression of need, not automatically paid even if you would qualify.
- Apply if you are already on a social welfare payment or your income is very low.
- Submit your SWA form to your local Intreo Office along with an Expected Date of Delivery (EDD) letter or confirmation of your baby's birth. You can obtain these from our medical secretary or your medical social worker.

Child Benefit

- Universal payment made by the Department of Social Protection to all mothers
- €140 per month. If you have twins, you receive one-and-a-half times Child Benefit per child, so €210 per child per month.
- New Baby Grant , Since 1st of Dec 2024 , (Once off payment) €280 single / €560 Twins
- Your Child Benefit payment continues until your baby is 16 years of age or 19, if they are in full time education.
- When you register your baby's birth, this information is forwarded to the Department of Social Protection, who will send you a Child Benefit form to complete.
- If you are already claiming Child Benefit for another child, your claim will be automatically updated.
- Your baby's Personal Public Service (PPS) number will be automatically posted to you around the same time.

Obtaining your Baby's Birth Certificate

- The Rotunda Hospital automatically sends notification of your baby's delivery to the Civil Registration Service.
- You need to register your baby within 3 months of their birth.
- From the 12th of August 2024, parents of newly born children will receive an invitation, by post, to register the birth of their child online. Verified MyGovID account required.
- To register a birth in person, you need to book an appointment to go to a civil registration service (Dublin, Wicklow, Kildare).
- You can book an appointment online or by phone. Walk-ins are available in some offices at certain times (e.g. Navan in Meath and Drogheda in Louth).
- If you are not married, both parents must attend the birth registration appointment.

Guardianship

- **Married** parents of a child are automatically joint guardians and have equal rights in relation to their child.
- When parents are **Not Married** to each other, a mother has full guardianship rights. Having a father's name on the birth certificate does **NOT** give him automatic guardianship rights.
- A father can be appointed joint guardian with the consent of the birth parent by signing a statutory declaration in the presence of a solicitor, peace commissioner or commissioner of oaths.
- If a mother does not agree to the statutory declaration, a father can apply to courts to be appointed joint guardian.
- Under the Child and Family Relationships Act 2015, an unmarried parent will automatically be a guardian if they have lived with the birth parent for twelve consecutive months, at least three of which must be after the birth of their baby.

Other Benefits to Explored on Citizens Information website

Illness Benefit

- For illnesses lasting more than 5 days
- You need to have made 104 weeks of PRSI contributions (2 years to qualify).

Health and Safety Leave/Benefit – €162 per week, based on PRSI contributions

GP Visit Cards for children under 8 years of age

One Parent Family Payment

- Payment of €244 per week plus €50 for a child under 12 and €62 for a child 12 or over.
- If working, €165 of your gross wage is disregarded, half of your remaining wages up to €425 is means tested.

Working Family Payment – must be working at least 38 hours a fortnight.

Single Parent Tax Credit

- The Single Person Child Carer Credit is €1,900 in 2025 (€1,750 in 2024).
- If you get the SPCCC, you are also entitled to an increase of €4,000 in the standard rate tax band

Domestic Violence

- All patients attending the Rotunda Hospital are asked about their experience of domestic violence, usually during their first antenatal visit. This reflects the Rotunda's dedication to keeping mothers and babies safe, as research has shown that domestic violence can escalate during pregnancy.
- More common than gestational diabetes or pre-eclampsia.
- It is your decision whether to talk to your health provider about your situation but it is important that you are aware that help is available and that you are not alone.
<https://www.womensaid.ie/>
- <https://www.safeireland.ie/>

Useful Contact Information

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Phone: 01 6700120

Thank you for listening 😊

Best Wishes for your pregnancy 😊

MSW Dept Telephone: 01-8171722