

*Sonya Bruen is a Senior Associate with Mason Hayes & Curran where she practices in Public and Administrative Law with specific focus on Child Protection and Welfare.*

*Mason Hayes & Curran is a full service law firm with 80 partners and offices in Dublin, London and New York with a tradition of delivering consistently excellent advice and providing a broad range of legal services to multi-national, institutional and government clients. It is one of a number of firms acting for TUSLA Child and Family Agency and formerly HSE.*

*The Child Care team in Mason Hayes & Curran specialises in District Court Public Law Proceedings, Secure Care High Court Applications and Juvenile Criminal Law.*

*Sonya qualified as a Social Worker from the Undergraduate BSS programme in Trinity College Dublin in 2000. She practiced as a Social Worker and Senior Social Work Practitioner in Child Protection and Welfare with the Health Service Executive from 2000 to 2006.*

*Sonya re-trained as a Solicitor in the Law Society of Ireland between 2006 and 2009. She has been working with Mason Hayes & Curran since 2011 where she provides advices and representation to Social Work teams on a day to day basis in respect of District Court applications under the Child Care Act 1991.*

*Sonya regularly provides training to Social Work students and practitioners on topics such as; Parental / Children's Rights in Public Law Proceedings, Preparation for Court and the Impact of new Child Protection Legislation (e.g. Children and Family Relationship Act 2015 and Children First Act 2015). Sonya has a particular interest in the area of Children's Rights.*

*Sonya and her colleagues in Mason Hayes & Curran have recently collaborated with Trinity College Dublin to establish a new legal training module for Social Work Students on the Undergraduate, Masters and Post Graduate courses with emphasis on the practical application of relevant legislation to Social Work practice.*