



**Sonya Bruen**

*Partner*

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Sonya is a Partner in our Public and Administrative Law team. She has advised and represented TUSLA Child and Family Agency and the Health Service Executive in District Court and High Court child care matters for the past 6 years.

Sonya has particular expertise in the area of fair procedures, judicial review, children's rights and accountability in child protection. She is also a qualified Social Worker who practiced in child protection and welfare with the Health Service Executive for a number of years before re-training as a solicitor in 2009.

Sonya and her colleagues in Mason Hayes & Curran have 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.

Sonya has also developed tailored legal training programmes for professionals with specific focus on the legislative framework of child protection in Ireland, which includes workshops and information sessions for various professions based on Sonya's practical experience and relevant anonymised case examples.

### **Specialities**

- Public Law
- Child Care Law
- Legal Training for Social Work Practitioners and Allied professionals

### **Representative Matters**

- Advised TUSLA Child and Family Agency in complex District Court and High Court proceedings in wardship and child care matters
- Advised and represented public funded clients on interpretation on the Children First Act 2015 and implications for organisation
- Developed and delivered online legal training programme with Trinity College Dublin for child protection practitioners

## **Speaking Engagements & Teaching**

- Lectures on weekly basis in Trinity College in the School of Social Work and Social policy at undergraduate, masters and post graduate level
- Facilitated conference on recent child protection legislation and implications for practitioners
- Regularly facilitates training and workshops for TUSLA and other public bodies to prepare professionals for court / report writing and file management