



**BASPCAN**  
IRISH BRANCH

## Children First Act 2015 &

### Children and Family Relationships Act 2015:

### Implications for Child Protection & Welfare Practice

10.30am Friday 16th September 2016 in Trinity College Dublin

**Speakers: Michele Clarke:** *Children First Legislation: Legislation and Impact*

**Sonia Bruen:** *The Implication of the Children and Family Relationships Act 2015 for Practitioners*

**Grace Corrigan:** *The Children and Family Relationships Act 2015: Implications for Children as Individual Rights Holders*

*Registration will be open for this event on Monday 8th August 2016—first come basis as numbers are limited*

*Cost: BASPCAN members: Free; Non-members: €20*

*CPD certificates will be available*



[WEBSITE](#)



@IrishBASPCAN



[JOIN NOW!](#)



## **BASPCAN** **IRISH BRANCH**

### **Agenda**

10.30 **Registration** (tea/coffee)

11.00 **Opening address**

Chair: Judge Rosemary Horgan

11.15 **Children First Legislation:  
Legislation and Impact**

Michele Clarke

11.55 **The Implication of the Children  
and Family Relationships Act 2015  
for Practitioners**

Sonya Bruen

12.35 **The Child and Family Relationships  
Act 2015: Implications for Children  
as Individual Rights Holders**

Grace Corrigan

12.50 **Panel Q&A**

Chair: Judge Rosemary Horgan

13.00 **Close**

**Michele Clarke**, a registered social worker, is currently the Social Work Specialist in the Department of Children and Youth Affairs. Michele manages oversight of child protection and children in care and advised the Minister and across the Department on issues related to social work. Prior to joining the Department in 2000, Michele was Chief Inspector of Social Services and later was instrumental in the roll out of children's standards and inspection in HIQA. In her earlier career Michele worked in community care, including child protection, and for a decade in Child and Adolescent Mental Health Services, as a social worker, family therapist and occasional lecturer

**Sonya Bruen** is a Senior Associate with Mason Hayes & Curran where she practices in the area of Public Law with specific focus on Child Protection and Welfare. Mason Hayes & Curran is one of a number of firms acting for TUSLA Child and Family Agency in Public Child Care Proceedings. Sonya qualified as a Social Worker from the undergraduate NQSW programme in Trinity College Dublin in 2000 and practiced as a Social Work Practitioner for the SWAHB / HSE for 6 years in the area of Child Protection and Welfare, before qualifying as a Solicitor in 2011 and moving to Mason Hayes Curran, working as part of team who advise and represent Social Work Practitioners in District Court applications under the Child Care Act 1991.

**Grace Corrigan** has been working in the area of Family Law Mediation for 18 years, currently working for the Legal Aid Board and Family Mediation Service in Dublin. Grace works at Dolphin House Family Courts, which is unique in that it is the only dedicated family law court in the country, and serves the Dublin Metropolitan Area. The court based mediation office offers mediation on issues concerning access, custody, guardianship, maintenance and where appropriate mediates in child welfare cases. Grace has recently completed the Post Graduate Diploma in Child Protection and Welfare at Trinity College Dublin .