

Module Title :	SS2139 –Introduction to Child and Family Law (5 ECTS)
Module Content	<p>The module explores key aspects of Irish and International Child and Family Law with particular focus on Public Child Care Law and the statutory role of Social Work Practitioners. The module will also provide an overview of relevant aspects of Private Family Law, including marriage breakdown, domestic violence, custody and guardianship.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • This module will run in Michaelmas Term
Learning Outcomes:	<p>On successful completion of this module, students will be able to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Understand and illustrate the structure of the Irish Legal System, with particular reference to Child and Family Law. • Consider the inherent difficulty of balancing parent's rights and children's rights in Public Law matters; • Have a good understanding of fair procedures for parents and families, including issues such as informed consent and the rights of parents to access legal representation
Key Reading/s	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Claire Hamilton, <i>'Irish Social Work and Social Care Law' 1st ed.</i>, (Gill and Macmillan, 2012) Part I • Paul Ward, <i>The Child Care Act 1991</i>, 3rd Edition, (Thomson Round Hall 2014), Part II; Section 3; Functions of the Child and Family Agency. • Children's First Guidelines, 2011 and Practice Handbook for Practitioners; definitions of child abuse and neglect. • Child Care Reporting Project, www.childlawproject.ie; Case examples • Louise Crowley, 'Family Law'. 2013 • Jim Nestor, <i>An Introduction to Irish Family Law</i>, 3rd ed. (Gill and Macmillan, 2007), • Geoffrey Shannon, <i>Child Law</i>, 2nd ed., (Thomson Round Hall), Chapters 1 and 2. • Alan Shatter, <i>Shatter's Family Law</i> 4th ed., (Butterworths, 1997), Chapters 1-4. • Blackmore, Ken. Griggs, Edwin (2013) <i>Social Policy: An Introduction</i> Buckingham: Open University Press

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Baldock, John, et al., (2012) <i>Social Policy</i> Oxford: Oxford University Press • Dean, Hartley, (2012) Cambridge: Polity Press • “Children’s Rights Alliance; Making Rights Real for Children”; Children’s Alliance, July 2015 • Children’s First Guidelines, 2011 and Practice Handbook for Practitioners; definitions of child abuse and neglect. • Kilkelly, Ursula. (1998) <i>Children’s Rights in Ireland: Law, Policy and Practice</i>, (Tottel Publishing) Chapters 8 and 9. • Kilkelly, U (Ed) <i>ECHR and Irish Law</i> 2nd ed., (Bristol: Jordan's). • (2005) 23 <i>Irish Law Times</i> 90: ‘Child Abuse, the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child and the Criminal Law’: Claire Hamilton • (2003) 6(3) <i>Irish Journal of Family Law</i> 6: “The Children’s Hearing System and the European Convention on Human Rights” Dr Linda Tyler • <i>Social Work and the Rights of the Child</i>, International Federation of Social Workers (see also http://www.ifsw.org) • <i>Laying the Foundations for Children’s Rights</i>, Philip Alston and John Tobin, UNICEF at http://www.unicef-icdc.org/publications/pdf/ii_layingthefoundations.pdf
<p>Additional Readings</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Paul Ward, <i>The Child Care Act 1991</i>, 3rd Edition, (Thomson Round Hall 2014), Part II; Section 3; Functions of the Child and Family Agency. • Kilkelly, U (Ed) (2009) <i>ECHR and Irish Law</i> Bristol: Jordan's. (2nd Edition). • Nestor , J (2007), <i>An Introduction to Irish Family Law</i>. Gill and McMillan. • Shatter, A (1999), <i>Family Law in the Republic of Ireland</i>. 4th ed., Dublin: Butterworths. • Kilkelly, Ursula. (1998) <i>Children’s Rights in Ireland: Law, Policy and Practice</i>, Tottel Publishing. • Fortin, Jane. 2009 <i>Children’s Rights and the Developing Law</i>. Cambridge University Press • Children’s Rights Alliance (2006) <i>From Rhetoric to Rights: Second Shadow Report to the UN</i> • Committee on the Rights of the Child. Dublin: Children’s Rights Alliance. • Kilkelly, U 'The Reform of Irish Adoption Law - Ensuring Compliance with International Obligations' <i>Irish Journal of Family Law</i> (2004) 10-14

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Kilkelly, U 'Child Protection and the European Convention on Human Rights', Irish • Journal of Family Law (April 2000) 12-20 • Report of the Constitution Review Group on the Family. 2007. Dublin: Government • Publications • Shannon, G (2010) Child Law Dublin: Thomson Round Hall • <u>Journals</u> • The Irish Journal of Family Law, Dublin: Sweet and Maxwell.
Lecturer / Timetable	<p>Ms Sonya Bruen</p> <p>Two hour lecture per week</p>
Assessment 1: (Michaelmas Term)	<p>1 essay / assignment = 100% of overall grade</p>