Academic Year 2017–2018

Module Title: SS2139 – Introduction to Child and Family Law (5 ECTS)

Module Content
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.

- This module will run in Michaelmas Term

Learning Outcomes:
On successful completion of this module, students will be able to:

- 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
- 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
- Geoffrey Shannon, Child Law, 2nd ed., (Thomson Round Hall), Chapters 1 and 2.
• “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, U (Ed) ECHR and Irish Law 2nd ed., (Bristol: Jordan’s).
• *Social Work and the Rights of the Child*, International Federation of Social Workers (see also http://www.ifsw.org

---

**Additional Readings**

• Committee on the Rights of the Child. Dublin: Children’s Rights Alliance.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Lecturer / Timetable</th>
<th>Ms Sonya Bruen</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>TBA</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Assessment 1:</td>
<td>TBA</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(Michaelmas Term)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

- **Journals**
- The Irish Journal of Family Law, Dublin: Sweet and Maxwell.