

IFCA STATEMENT

The Irish Foster Care Association (IFCA) is saddened to hear the victims accounts of the abuse they suffered while in foster care in Galway.

The system that is meant to protect children in foster care failed these children catastrophically and this must not happen again. IFCA is calling for an investigation to take place to find out how such basic child protection requirements failed so badly.

There is a system in place to ensure that every child in foster care has access to their own social worker who is available to them if they have any worries or negative experiences in their foster placement. Equally, the foster carer has their own link social worker who can provide support and guidance to them. In the case where the safety of a child is compromised, the child protection system must also respond immediately. The safety of children in foster care is paramount and every action must be taken to protect them, including the immediate removal of a child or children if necessary. There can never be a grey area in this regard.

Catherine Bond, CEO, Irish Foster Care Association, said "I am disappointed to hear about this case in Galway where children who were in the care of the state were not been protected. Central to everything that we do in foster care is the safety and security of the children that are placed in care. In order to understand how such failures happened an investigation needs to take place so that everyone involved in this case ensures that it never happens again."

Ends

Media Queries:

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Note to Editors

The Irish Foster Care Association is the representative body for foster care in Ireland. Child-centred and rights-based, IFCA promotes excellence in foster care so that children have the best chances in life. We aim to accomplish this by providing information, support, and learning opportunities for all those involved in foster care through our direct work in Advocacy, Branch Development, Support, and Learning and Development. We are an independent, membership-led organisation. IFCA's National Support Helpline runs every week day from 11.00am - 3.00pm and can be contacted at 01 458 5123.