



An Ghníomhaireacht um
Leanaí agus an Teaghlach
Child and Family Agency

Ms. Eva Boyle.
Acting Head of Programme
Children's Services Regulation
George's Court,
George's Lane,
Dublin 7,
Ireland.

25th September 2019

Re: Voluntary Consent for the placement of children in the care of Tusla.

Dear Ms. Boyle,

I refer to your letter dated 14 August 2019 and apologise for the delay in responding.

We have commenced an oversight review in each area of voluntary care arrangements with a view to ensuring that all children in the voluntary care of the Child and Family Agency have had their voluntary care status reviewed in line with the Practice Guidance issued on 7 July 2017. We anticipate this review will be completed by 31 October.

We have reissued the guidance with clear instructions as to what is expected in terms of best practice and the appropriate completion and recording of voluntary consent forms in the child's current file. We have also reinforced the requirement to regularly review voluntary consent in line with the Practice Guidance and no less frequently than at every statutory Child in Care Review.

When we have completed our review we will compile a report of our findings and implement a service improvement plan to address any challenges or inconsistencies in the implementation of the guidance. We will update you on progress at that stage.

The Practice Guidance is now due for review and this will be completed and updated before the end of quarter one 2020.

Yours Sincerely,

Linda Creamer
Acting Chief Operations Officer