



MEMORANDUM

To:	Eanna O'Brien, Service Director – Children's Residential Services Anne Wall, National Manager - Special Care Willie Brazil, Residential Coordinator Cork & Kerry Andy Denton, Regional Manager Quality, Risk and Improvement - South
CC	Dearbhla Ni Riordain (A. Social Work Manager CUH Campus) Bernard Dooley, Child Care Inspector Paschal McMahon, Child Care Inspector Karen O'Mahony, Implementation Officer, Cork & Kerry Liam Hickey, Regional Residential Project Manager - South Oliver Mawe, Area Manager for Child & Family Agency, Kerry Dermot Halpin, Regional Lead, Child & Family Agency, South Siobhan Mughan, National Policy Development Manager for Alternative Care Management Team, Child & Family Agency, Cork
From	Kieran Campbell, Child Care Manager - Cork Area
Status	High and for Compliance
Date	09 June 2014
Re	Practice Guidelines with regard to the Admission of Children in Care to Emergency Departments in Cork & Kerry.

Colleagues please note that the Practice Guidelines developed in Cork and Kerry with regard to the Admission of Children in Care to Emergency Department is as follows:

If a child is admitted for medical reasons to the ED Department, they will need to be accompanied by the Care Staff on duty/designated on call person for the Residential Unit. It is expected that this person would remain with the child until they are discharged.



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If the child is placed in a hospital due to non-medical reasons i.e. place of safety, then the child needs to be accompanied by Care Staff on duty/designated on call person for Residential Unit/Out-of-Hours Social Work Service. It is expected that this person would remain with the child until they are discharged.

This practice guideline was developed between Emergency Department of Cork University Hospital and CFA management following a number of issues that arose in the early part of 2013. While this Practice Guideline was issued to all statutory Children Residential Centres in Cork and Kerry, it is not clear if the same Guideline was issued to the Non Statutory Children Residential Centres in Cork & Kerry.

The need for this Practice Guideline to be reiterated to all Childrens' Residential Centres in Cork & Kerry follows an incident last week where a child removed from a private residential provider under Section 12 on 04/06/2014, whereby the young person was left at the hospital without the supervision and support of a staff member. It also transpired that the staff member refused to stay with the child and ultimately disappeared from the hospital without informing staff leaving the child unaccompanied.

(I am aware that a review meeting on 11/06/2014 following which a Monitoring Visit will be conducted to ascertain full circumstances of the Section 12)

However, it is imperative that we ensure that all Childrens' Residential Centres are aware of the Practice Guideline; therefore, I would request that each Childrens' Residential Centres operating under your aegis are made aware of this Practice Guideline and are compliant with same.