



Feidhmeannacht na Seirbhíse Sláinte
Health Service Executive

Oibríochtaí Meabhairshláinte
Ospidéal Naomh Lómáin Baile Phámar Baile Átha Cliath20.
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28th May 2019

Deputy Pearse Doherty TD
Dail Eireann,
Leinster House,
Kildare Street
Dublin 2.

PQ 22711/19 Question: To ask the Minister for Health the position of the HSE with respect to the recognition of a disputed condition (details supplied); the version of the WHO International Classification of Diseases diagnostic and statistic tool used by the HSE for the purpose of recognising the condition; if cross departmental work with the Department of Justice and Equality will take place should changes to the version being used be adopted in future; and if he will make a statement on the matter. -Pearse Doherty

Details Parental Alienation
Supplied:

Dear Deputy Doherty,

The Health Service Executive has been requested to reply directly to you in the context of the above Parliamentary Question, which you submitted to the Minister for Health for response. I have examined the matter and the following outlines the position.

Parental alienation is a controversial entity originally described by James Gardner in 1985. It is not recognised as a clinical entity by the American Psychiatric Association in their classification of mental health disorders, the Diagnostic and Statistical Manual of Mental Health Disorders (DSM), the most recent iteration of which was published in 2013, that is, DSM-V. Nor is it recognised by the World Health Organisation in their standard diagnostic tool, the International Classification of Diseases and Related Health Problems (ICD) 10 which is the current WHO document.

With reference to cross departmental work with the Department of Justice and Equality, this would be more appropriately answered by the relevant departments.

I trust this information is of assistance to you but should you have any further queries please contact me.

Yours sincerely,

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A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Sinead Reynolds'.

Dr Sinead Reynolds
General Manager Mental Health Services

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