



MEDIA RELEASE: 18TH NOVEMBER 2013

Government Publish Plans to Recognise Lesbian and Gay Families.

The Department of Justice have published a briefing note on the Family Relationships and Children Bill 2013 which aims “to create a legal structure to underpin diverse parenting situations and to provide legal clarity on parental rights and duties in diverse family forms”.

“We strongly welcome the Government’s commitment to update parenting legislation to recognise the diversity of family forms in Ireland. There are lesbian and gay couples all over Ireland who are bringing up children. These families urgently need legal recognition and protection – the protections and certainty that other families take for granted. The lack of State recognition and protection for these families carries significant consequences for their children.” said Rose.

Ireland now has many different types of families into which children are born and raised, including step-parent families, lesbian and gay headed families, and families headed by members of the extended family. The proposed Bill recognises this fact and the Briefing Note outlines how the State will update its existing laws governing the care and upbringing of children.

“With the comprehensive rights and obligations of civil partnership already in place and forthcoming family recognition legislation, civil partners, including those parenting children, would have almost all the legal rights of marriage except equal protection in the Constitution. The Government recent historic decision to hold a referendum on marriage in 2015 would be the final step in a remarkable journey to full constitutional equality for lesbian and gay families in Ireland” concluded Rose.

Ends

For further details contact:

Brian Sheehan	GLEN	(086) 2330417
Tiernan Brady	GLEN	(087) 8505972
www.twitter.com/@GLEN_news		www.glen.ie

Editors Note:

1. Department of Justice Briefing Note can be found [here](#).