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Contact Us

If you or any of your staff or clients have queries with regard to:

- Emigration from Ireland
- Returning to Ireland
- Immigration

and for full details of the services available including opening hours, outreach locations and publications please feel free to contact us:

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Follow us on Twitter:

<http://twitter.com/LivinginIreland>

And see also our new multi-language website:

www.livinginireland.ie

1. Crosscare secures improvements for returned Irish emigrants in the new guidelines on the Habitual Residence Condition

After over three years of lobbying and campaigning, last week Crosscare Migrant Project was successful in getting **due recognition for returning emigrants** when the Department of Social Protection issued **revised guidelines** for the operation of the Habitual Residence Condition (HRC).

Crosscare has been pushing for explicit mention of a returned emigrant's connection with Ireland in the guidelines and this has finally arrived under the guideline on the 'Centre of Interest' criteria, which states: ...***'returned emigrants or retired missionaries who have chosen to resettle in Ireland should be considered to have their main centre of interest here'***.

There are also a **variety of other improvements** in the new guidelines in line with our recommendations.

Over 3,500 Irish nationals have been refused a payment based on the HRC since its inception in 2004. Over the years we have maintained that returning Irish emigrants were being incorrectly refused a payment due to misapplication of the HRC. We now hope that the improved guidelines will help all returned emigrants should they need the help of the Irish state.

However there is much work still to be done, as we are continuing to see returned emigrants incorrectly refused a payment. We will continue to assist people in appealing poor decisions and we will now push for **full and proper implementation of the new guidelines**.

If you have any questions or concerns in relation to the HRC please do not hesitate to contact us.

The new guidelines on the HRC can be found by clicking [here](#), or at www.tinyurl.ie/newguidelines.

A selection of **examples and case studies** relating to returning Irish nationals and 'Centre of Interest' has also been prepared by the Department. These can be found [here](#), or at www.tinyurl.ie/CaseStudies.

If you do not wish to receive this e-bulletin, please contact amytyndall@crosscare.ie

2. Applying for social housing in Ireland

There are new regulations in effect since April 2011 which set out how local housing authorities in Ireland should handle applications for social (council) housing.

A person may apply for social housing to **one local housing authority area only**. Usually, this should be either the **area where you are living**, or an **area where you have a local connection**.

The following will be examined in deciding whether or not you have a 'local connection' to a particular area:

- You or a member of your household has **resided in the area concerned for a continuous 5-year period at any time**; or
- The **place of employment** of any household member is in the area concerned or is located within 15 kilometres of the area; or
- A household member is in **full-time education** in any university, college, school or other education establishment in the area concerned; or
- Any household member with an enduring physical, sensory, mental health or intellectual impairment is **attending an educational or medical establishment** in the area concerned that has facilities or services specifically related to such impairment, or
- A **relative of any household member lives in the area** concerned and has lived there for a minimum period of 2 years

In addition, in order to be eligible for social housing you must satisfy the **income criteria** and be able to show that you **do not have suitable alternative accommodation** that you can occupy.

More information on applying for social housing can be found here: www.tinyurl.ie/socialhousing.