

Every Moment Matters...

Resources

Online Resources:

www.hospicefoundation.ie
www.childhoodbereavement.ie
www.citizensinformation.ie
www.hse.ie
www.familycarers.ie
www.thinkahead.ie
www.decisionsupportservice.ie

Useful Resources for Children:

Let my Colors Out by Courtney Filigenzi
The Secret C
Straight talking about cancer
by Winston's Wish, UK
As Big as it Gets
Supporting a child when someone in their
family is seriously ill by Winston's Wish, UK.

Name of Medical Social Worker: _____

Contact Details: _____



For further information please contact the Medical Social Work Department at

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☎ 091 770868

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📍 Mayo Hospice,
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RCN 20029098



**MEDICAL SOCIAL
WORK DEPARTMENT**





Our Purpose

We provide compassionate palliative care to patients and their families in counties Galway and Mayo. We do this by working alongside our health partners. We offer inpatient, day care and community services, which are underpinned by exemplary knowledge and delivered with compassion, dignity, respect and excellence.

Our Vision

To be a leading example of excellence by delivering a specialist palliative care service, in appropriate settings, to people living with advanced life limiting illnesses.

Medical Social Work Department

The Medical Social Work Department support the psychological, emotional and social well-being of patients and their families impacted by illness. We recognise that each individual's experience of illness is different. The opportunity for you to link with one of our team can make a difference.

We can support you, your family and friends to talk through thoughts and feelings about illness, life changes and future care planning. We can also offer support with emotional and practical issues you may be facing.

Medical Social Workers provide a support service for patients and their families who are under the care of the hospice services including daycare, the inpatient unit and community palliative care team.

We work in partnership with you, your family and the Multidisciplinary Team and external agencies.

What we do

Medical Social Workers help patients and their families to function as best they can and provide a safe, confidential and supportive environment to talk through any concerns or worries.

Living with a serious illness can affect every aspect of a patient's life and can cause stress for all involved. We promote the strengths and coping skills for you and your family to deal with the social, emotional and psychological impact of a serious illness.

We are aware that in some cases, family conflicts and differences of opinion can occur regarding a patient's care. We work in partnership with patients and their families to alleviate further stress that may be experienced as a result of illness.

Enhancing Communication

- Providing counselling support.
- Supporting children with the impact of illness.
- Facilitating family meetings with the Multidisciplinary Team including Doctors, Nurses, Occupational Therapy and Physiotherapy.
- Supporting patients/families with Keepsake and Memory work to reflect on their lives and engage in activities that may create special memories. This may include photo books, memory books, video recordings, writing for the future & Reminiscence Programmes.
- Supporting Carers to avail of a Carer Support Needs Assessment (CSNAT).
- Enhancing communication and managing difficult conversations to ensure that your wishes are respected in all aspects of your care.
- We support you and your family to establish hopes and wishes for the future.
- Information & advice on practical issues such as benefits, community services and welfare entitlements.
- Advocacy, future care planning and liaising with other professionals and community services.

