



# WELCOME TO THE SOCIAL WORK DEPARTMENT AT THE NATIONAL MATERNITY HOSPITAL

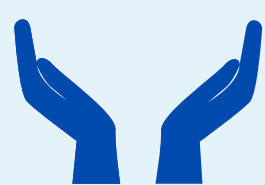
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The Social Work Department at The National Maternity Hospital is located on the Ground Floor opposite the Front Hall. We work with women who are experiencing social and emotional difficulties at any stage of pregnancy. We also work with women attending gynaecological or early pregnancy services.

The aim of social work is to support you through these difficulties to achieve change and make decisions, which will improve your quality of life. Your medical team may have asked us to meet with you or you may have requested to see a social worker yourself. Our main goal is to provide you with as much support as possible during pregnancy and beyond that will help strengthen and develop your capacity to care for yourself and your child/ren safely.

We understand that talking about personal issues can be difficult and our team will make every effort to meet with you in a way that is non-judgemental, supportive, honest and clear.

Our social workers deal with lots of different types of issues that can arise for women attending the hospital. There is a link on The NMH website [www.nmh.ie](http://www.nmh.ie), which tells you more about this under **Support Services**.



## NMH Support Services

There are certain concerns that must be referred to the Social Work Department. Your social worker will always explain the reason for referral with you. There is more information available on our hospital website under **Children First**.



### What can you expect when you meet a Medical Social Worker?

- You will usually meet/talk to the same social worker throughout your pregnancy.
- You may be asked to provide some information before this meeting if possible.
- You will also be asked what the best way is to work together, while we cannot meet face-to face. This might mean by telephone, video calling or email.



## Personal information

When talking to your medical social worker, you will be sharing personal information. We keep that information on your health record, which is only accessible to the team who treat you. If we have to share your information with others, we will talk to you about this first. If we ask other professionals for information about you, we will ask you for your consent to do this. Your social worker can explain the specific times that we may have to share your information with others without your permission.



## Data Protection

There is more information on our website about the way our hospital manages your information under Data Protection.

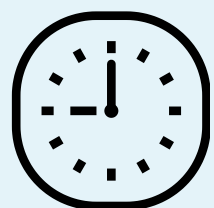
## Contact Details



Phone: 01 637 3236



Email: [socialworkadmin@nmh.ie](mailto:socialworkadmin@nmh.ie)



## Opening Hours

The Social Work Department is open **Monday to Friday from 9.30 – 17.00**

*Lunch is usually between 13.00 – 13.30*

It is not always possible to see a social worker immediately without a scheduled arrangement, it is usually best to phone ahead.

