



Department of Justice, Equality and Law Reform

Changes in Adoptive Leave

Mr. Michael McDowell, T.D., Minister for Justice, Equality and Law Reform wishes to announce that the Adoptive Leave Act 1995 has been amended by Order so as to bring into effect an increase in adoptive leave.

The entitlement is as follows:-

ADOPTIVE LEAVE

<i>Who is eligible?</i>	<i>Current leave entitlement</i>	<i>New leave entitlement w.e.f. 19 November, 2004</i>
Adopting mothers or sole male adopters who <i>commence</i> adoptive leave on or after 19 November, 2004	14 weeks adoptive leave attracting payment of benefit by the Department of Social and Family Affairs from date of placement.	16 weeks adoptive leave attracting payment of benefit by the Department of Social and Family Affairs from date of placement

Entitlement of fathers to adoptive leave in the event of the death of the mother has also been increased.

For further information on adoptive leave please contact:-

**The Equality Authority, Clonmel Street, Dublin 2, tel: 01-4173333,
lo-call: 1890 245545**

The newly extended Adoptive Benefit will be payable by the Department of Social and Family Affairs for persons **commencing adoptive leave on or after 19 November, 2004.** (*Note: If you have already applied in advance, but your adoptive leave is not due to commence until after 19 November, 2004, and your extra 2 weeks leave has been agreed by your employer then you should contact that Department regarding your additional entitlements.*)

**All enquiries relating to Adoptive Benefit should be made to:
Adoptive Benefit Section, Social Welfare Services Office, St. Oliver Plunkett Rd.,
Letterkenny, Co. Donegal. Lo-call: 1890 690690**