



Loreto Martin

The Voice of the Child Consultant

Contact Number: 085 182 13 50

Email: loreto@thevoiceofthechild.ie

www.thevoiceofthechild.ie

SECTION 32 1 (b) 'VOICE OF THE CHILD' REFERRAL FORM

PERSONAL INFORMATION

Date of the next Court date:

Your name:

Your phone number:

Your email address:

Your postal address:

Your Solicitor's Name:

Phone number:

Email address:

Are you the *Applicant* or the *Respondent*?

Are you in receipt of Legal aid?

Your child/ren's name and DOB:

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.
- 4.

Name of the parent your child/ren resides with:

Name of the child/ren's other parent:

Their contact details, if known:

Introduction:

My name is Loreto Martin and, as a Social Care practitioner, I have been carrying out Section 32 'Voice of the Child' reports since July 2020. I worked directly with children and families from 2008-2020 and for 10 of those years I was a Children's Access Support Coordinator. This involved listening to children's voices and worries around access and trying to create a safe, supportive, fun space where the child and parent could meet and spend time together. In 2007 I graduated with an Honours Bachelor of Arts Degree in Applied Social Studies (Disabilities) (Level 8).

This combination of experience and education means that I meet **(1)** the 'relevant period' to be working with children and **(2)** the recognised qualifications deemed necessary to be a Child's Views Expert as set out by S.I.No.587/2018-Guardianship and Infants Act 1964 (Child's Views Expert) Regulations 2018.

The Aim of the Section 32 'Voice of the Child' Report:

Our role is to meet with parents and the child to gain an understanding of the situation your child is in and to hear their voice. The report is carried out to see how things are going from the children's perspective and to suggest recommendations to help make the children's relationship and contact easier with both parents.

Meetings will take place in the Kells or Navan, Co Meath area. (Please see note 1 below).

Note 1: Mrs. Martin can travel to different counties on request, to meet children in their homes, which prevents children and their families travelling. The cost of travel, hotel and room hire etc will be divided equally between the parents who avail of this service.

Note 2: Mrs. Martin will record meetings with all family members with whom she speaks. This ensures an accurate report highlighting the voice of the child. They will be transcribed within a week of the meeting, and the recording is then deleted.

The Section 32 1 (b) 'Voice of the Child' report process is as follows:

1. With a review report, we do not speak with parents or professionals.
2. We will contact the resident parent to arrange to meet the child/ren.
3. Meet with your child/ren in their own home which would be easier on them.
4. We will provide a factual report for court, based on our findings from your child/ren's perspective on how they view their situation and what they would like to happen for the future (age appropriate). Based on the findings, we will also make recommendations to the court on how best to move forward in the best interest, safety, and wellbeing of your child/ren.

Report:

The Section 32 report will be emailed to the courthouse usually a week before the court date and an email will be sent to both solicitors letting them know the report is in the court.

Our Focus and commitment:

Our focus is to carry out a Section 32 'Voice of the Child' report. Therefore, we will not get involved in he said/she said issues as this can distract from the focus of our role. If a parent needs support, we will not be able to support them, however, we will give them details of appropriate services that can help to support them through their issues.

We commit to work with your family in a respectful, professional, and child centred manner. Given the very nature of this service there may be times that parents are not happy (from their perspective) with the service they are provided with, especially when their child/ren is our focus, and some parents may not be happy with the outcome. However, it's essential that parents/child/ren let us know the areas where they feel we can improve our service by providing constructive/positive/negative feedback to us. **Note 3:** Any feedback will be gladly accepted and will **not** impact or reflect on the focus of the work or the interaction that is taking place with the family.

I am aware that:

All meetings will be recorded, especially with children, to ensure accuracy in communicating the voice of the child. The recordings are transcribed within a week of the meeting and then deleted.

All of my information will be password protected, kept in a secure place, and will be confidential to each individual and any agency The Voice of the Child may need to contact in the course of their work. There are two exceptions.

1. If it came to our attention that a child is at risk then we are required to report this concern to Tusla and both parents will be informed (if appropriate) of this referral.
2. If we become aware of a parent being a risk of harm to themselves or someone else we will need to inform the appropriate services and supports.

Fee Structure:

The fee per parent is €738.00 (vat included). However, if either or both parties have a Legal Aid (LA) certificate which includes a provision for payment for a Section 32 1 (b) report, the fee is covered by this certificate.

For a parent who isn't covered by LA, the 1st Payment of €369 should be paid before we meet your child/ren. The balance can be paid before the report is completed.

Note 4: Payment via instalments can be arranged on request, however, the full fee amount must be paid prior to the report being released to the Court. Therefore, if you will be paying in instalments, you will need to let us know at the outset of the process to ensure payments are manageable for you and paid in full, on time.

Court attendance:

The fee for Mrs. Martin attending court is €1,353.00 (vat included) and the payment is the responsibility of the parent summoning her to court. This fee must be paid when the summons is issued. However, if a parent is in receipt of LA, then their LA cert will cover this cost.

Please use your name as the reference when lodging payment to allow correct allocation and avoid misunderstandings.

Please lodge fees to the following account:

Account name: Loreto Martin
Bank: Permanent TSB
BIC: IPBSIE2D
IBAN: IE61IPBS99061529852391

I have read in full and understand the contents of the Section 32 'Voice of the Child' information including recording of meetings.

I agree to allow Loreto Martin to proceed with the Section 32 'Voice of the Child' report and agree to the conditions outlined above.

I will make any concerns I have known to Mrs. Martin.

Signed by Parent:

Name of parent, printed:

Date: