

From The Secretaries of
The Irish Episcopal Conference

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21st December 2017

Mr Vincent Doyle,

By email with original by post

Dear Vincent,

Thank you for your letter of 15th November 2017 which was circulated to all members of the Irish Episcopal Conference at the recent Bishops' meeting.

The Bishops are of the opinion that this query requires much more information than they have. It is a detailed question which does not immediately admit of answers. They feel that they do not have adequate information to provide an answer to the question posed.

However, as the Bishops pointed out in the statement of principles sent to you last May, each situation requires careful consideration, with certain key points presenting themselves on which the decision of the priest should be made:

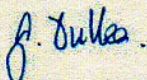
- The best interests of the child
- Dialogue with, and respect for, the mother of the child
- Dialogue with Church superiors
- Taking into account civil and canon law.

These principles give valuable guidance in addressing situations which may arise.

I hope that this is helpful to you.

With every blessing for the Christmas season, I remain,

Yours sincerely,



Monsignor Gearóid Dullea
Executive Secretary