

Notice of Decision

Registrant	Ceara Marie Quinn
Registration number	2000374
Part of Register	Part 2 – Adult Residential Care Worker
Sanction	Warning to remain on your registration for a period of 3 years
Date of Effect	22 nd March 2024

This is a notice of decision of the Northern Ireland Social Care Council (the Council).

Decision

The Council has decided:

1. that there is evidence that your Fitness to Practise is impaired by reason of a conviction in the UK for a criminal offence, as defined in Part 1, Rule 4 of the NISCC Fitness to Practise Rules 2019.
2. to issue a warning and direct that a record of the warning should be placed on your entry in the Register for a period of 3 years.

Conviction in the UK for a Criminal Offence

Whilst registered as a Social Care Worker, you were convicted of the following criminal offence at Ballymena Magistrates' Court on 18 September 2023:

'Defendant on 23rd November 2022 unlawfully assaulted [Person A], contrary to section 42 of the Offences Against the Person Act 1861'.

Reasons

The reasons that this behaviour is considered to constitute impaired fitness to practise are:

- Service users have the right to have confidence that the social care workers, in whom they place their trust, behave in ways both in work and outside of work that will not call into question their suitability to work in social care services.
- Your behaviour has fallen below the standard expected of a person registered with the Northern Ireland Social Care Council.

NISCC Standards of Conduct and Practice for Social Care Workers

The Standards of Conduct and Practice for Social Care Workers that your behaviour has breached, are as follows:

- Standard 5: As a social care worker, you must uphold trust and confidence in social care services. In particular, you must not,

5.8: Behave in a way, in work or outside work, which would call into question your suitability to work in social care services.

Sanction

Having regard to the document '*Consensual Disposal Indicative Sanctions*' the Council decided that the appropriate sanction was the imposition of a warning on your registration for a period of 3 years.

Reasons for the Sanction

When reaching its decision, the Council considered the following factors:

- Your fitness to practise is currently impaired by virtue of a recent conviction for Common Assault received on 18th September 2023 in Ballymena Magistrates Court.
- While the assault did not occur in work, physical harm and injury was caused to another person while you were registered as a social care worker with the Northern Ireland Social Care Council.
- Public confidence may be negatively impacted as a result of a registered social care worker receiving a conviction for Common Assault.
- Two Children were present during the incident and witnessed the assault.
- Your behaviour demonstrates a serious disregard for NISCC Standards of Conduct and Practice.

The following mitigating circumstances were considered in reaching this decision:

- No service users were involved.
- You have not previously come to the Council's attention and have an otherwise unblemished registration record.
- Your behaviour, whilst serious, appears to be an isolated incident and you have no previous offending behaviour.
- You have fully engaged with the fitness to practise investigation, admitting your behaviour in a transparent and timely manner.
- You have expressed remorse and learning from your actions.
- There have been no concerns regarding your practise or the care you provide to service users.

Consent

Having been advised of the consequences, and having been recommended to take independent advice, you consented to the imposition of a warning on 12th March 2024. A record of the warning has been placed on your entry in the Register for a period of 3 years and does not affect your ability to practise.

Date of Effect

This warning comes into effect on 22nd March 2024.

Manni Okamba

Director of Regulation and Standards

22nd March 2024

Date