

Notice of Decision

Registrant	Maria Fredrika Dilworth
Registration number	7016850
Part of Register	Part 2 – Domiciliary Care Worker
Sanction	Removal by Agreement
Date of Effect	18th October 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 your Convictions, and your Misconduct, as defined in Part 1, Rule 4 of the NISCC Fitness to Practise (Amendment) Rules 2019 ('the Rules').
2. to remove you from the Register, following your application to be Removed by Agreement, as defined in Rule 14 of the Rules.

You (the Registrant) have agreed to the following Statement of Facts:

- 1 The Registrant was convicted of the following criminal offences at the Crown Court at Belfast on 17th June 2024.
 - i) [Registrant], on dates between 30th April 2017 and the 16th day of January 2019 being a person who has attained the age of 16 and having the custody, charge and care of [Child A], a child or young person under that age, wilfully ill-treated the said [Child A], in a manner likely to cause her unnecessary suffering or injury to health contrary to Section 20(1) of the Children and Young Persons Act (Northern Ireland) 1968
 - ii) [Registrant], on dates between 31st May 2014 and the 1st day of July 2019 being a person who has attained the age of 16 and having the custody, charge and care of [Child B], a child or young person under that age, wilfully ill-treated the said [Child B], in a manner likely to cause her unnecessary suffering or injury to health contrary to Section 20(1) of the Children and Young Persons Act (Northern Ireland) 1968
- 2 By reason of the convictions set out above, the Registrant's fitness to practise is deemed to be impaired.

- 3 On 21st May 2021 when applying for registration as a social care practitioner the Registrant acted dishonestly by failing to declare that she was subject to a police investigation concerning the ill treatment of a child. Section 5 of the Council's registration application form specifically asks;

"Have you ever been investigated by social services and/or the police (in the UK or any other country) due to concerns about your care or treatment of a child or vulnerable adult in either your work or home setting?"

The Registrant replied 'No', despite knowing that on 23rd June 2020 she had attended a Police station accompanied by her solicitor for interview under Caution for child cruelty allegations.

- 4 By reason of the misconduct set out above the Registrant's fitness to practise is deemed to be impaired.
- 5 The public has a right to have confidence and trust in social care services. The Registrant is convicted of wilfully ill-treating two children in her care on dates between the years of 2014 to 2019, causing them unnecessary suffering or injury to health. The Registrant is currently subject to an 18-month custodial sentence, suspended for a period of 2 years. The Courts deemed that only a suspended custodial sentence could address the Registrant's serious offending behaviour. Confidence in the social care profession would be undermined by allowing the Registrant to remain registered.
- 6 The public also has a right to have confidence and trust in the integrity of the Social Care Register and the Council's application process which includes satisfaction of the applicant's suitable character. The Registrant acted dishonestly when completing her application form by concealing the Police investigation into her actions. Confidence in the Council, as Regulator for social care, would be undermined by allowing the Registrant to remain registered.
- 7 The Registrant has breached the following provisions of the NISCC Standards of Conduct and Practice for Social Care Workers:

Standard 2: As a social care worker, you must strive to establish and maintain the trust and confidence of service users and carers. This includes:

Standard 2.1: Being honest and trustworthy.

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

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

Application for Removal by Agreement

Having regard to the document '*Consensual Disposal Indicative Sanctions*', the Council was minded to grant you Removal by Agreement. The Council served papers on you, inviting you to apply for Removal by Agreement. Having been advised of the consequences, and having been recommended to take independent advice, you made a written application to be removed from the Register on 15th October

2024. In making the application, you admitted the allegations, signed the agreed statement of facts (as set out above), and admitted the facts amounted to your fitness to practise being impaired.

The effect of this decision is that your entry in the Register has been removed.

You are prohibited by law from working as a social care worker in any of the following regulated positions:

1. A member of care staff at a:
 - a) Children's home,
 - b) Residential care home
 - c) Nursing home
 - d) Day care setting
 - e) Residential family centre

2. A person who is supplied by a domiciliary care agency to provide personal care to individuals in their own homes for persons who by reason of illness, infirmity or disability are unable to provide it for themselves without assistance.

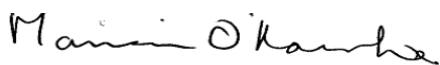
3. A manager of a:
 - a) Residential care home
 - b) Day care setting
 - c) Residential family care centre
 - d) Domiciliary care agency.

It is **compulsory** for the above social care workers to be registered with the Northern Ireland Social Care Council in order to work. This is pursuant to the Northern Ireland Social Care Register (Social Care Workers Prohibition) and Fitness of Workers (Amendment) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2017.

In accordance with Schedule 3, Paragraph 9 of the NISCC Fitness to Practise Rules, you may not apply to be restored to the Register within five years from the date of removal.

Date of Effect

This notice comes into effect on 18th October 2024



Director of Regulation and Standards

18th October 2024

Date