

## Rights and Responsibilities

Within both our practice as well as the research which informs our practice, always ensuring that whatever we do is based on a firm platform of evidence, we are keen to stress the rights of those we work with through our agency. From a purely practice based perspective, we sometimes describe this as a 'rights-based' perspective.

When we seek to work within such perspectives (or frameworks) we know from real life practice, that these are not just aspirations – even if much for all kinds of reasons seems to remain on the aspirational level – they are also national, international and legal frameworks as well.

Some of these that apply to our work with Children and Families include documents such as the

- UN Declaration on the Rights of the Child
- World Declaration on the Survival, Protection and Development of Children
- European Convention on the Exercise of Children's Rights

and others, which are now listed and linked to from a new page within the [Tusla Research Centre](#).

When we come to speak about rights, whether it's the rights of children, or rights more generally, from an ethical standpoint, it's important to remember it's not a one-way street. Rights go hand in hand with responsibilities. The responsibilities to make rights known, to put them into practice, but also for those who are the beneficiaries of the rights to respond to the freedoms, opportunities and benefits provided by those rights in a spirit of co-operation. Not simply as a demand led service.

For most engaged in day to day practice, within our Agency, the above may seem like an idealistic statement, when it's almost impossible to keep up with demand – and the same can be said across a range of professions with health care, education as well as more broadly at a societal level.

However, as evidence informed practitioners, we owe it to ourselves from time to time to stand back from the pressures of practice, look at such statements (and visions) of rights and ask ourselves – why are we here and what is it we want to achieve? And do such statements of rights encompass everything we want to see for a better future for those we work with? How do we put them into practice? Research is first and foremost about asking questions!