



**An Roinn Coimirce Sóisialaí  
Department of Social Protection**

**[www.welfare.ie](http://www.welfare.ie)**

**Minister Burton congratulates couples who have registered  
for civil partnership**

“2011 is a momentous year for same sex-couples in Ireland”, said the Minister for Social Protection, Joan Burton T.D., congratulating the couples who have recently entered into a Civil Partnership. “From 1<sup>st</sup> January this year, same-sex couples have been able to apply to enter into a Civil Partnership. This provides, for the first time, enhanced rights and protections for thousands of Irish men and women.”

Couples must give three months notice to the Registrar before having a civil partnership ceremony. However, the Courts may grant an exemption from the three month notice period where there are serious reasons for the exemption and it is in the interests of the couple concerned.

“A small number of same-sex couples have entered into civil partnerships since the beginning of this year and I expect that many more will follow suit. I wish them every happiness in their lives together.”

**ENDS**