



**NEWS RELEASE**

**November 14 2008**

**Voluntary organisations urged to apply for counselling services funding**

*Deadline for applications is 28<sup>th</sup> November - Hanafin*

Mary Hanafin T.D., Minister for Social and Family Affairs today (14<sup>th</sup> November 2008) urged voluntary organisations which provide family counselling services to apply now to the Family Support Agency for funding under their 2009 scheme of grants.

Speaking today, Minister Hanafin said, **“this funding is used to help people deal with difficulties they are experiencing in their relationships, to help children whose lives have been affected by parental separation and to support families who have experienced the death of a family member.”**

Almost €11 million was allocated to 600 voluntary and community groups nationwide under the 2008 Scheme.

Grants under this Scheme are available for:

- Marriage counselling;
- Marriage Preparation Courses;
- Child Counselling Services (in relation to parental separation); and
- Bereavement Counselling/Support Services.

The Minister continued, **“the Family Support Agency has issued application forms and information leaflets to over 650 voluntary and community organisations nationwide, I would strongly other organisations who feel**



**they may qualify for a grant to contact the Agency immediately for further information.”**

The closing date for receipt of completed applications under the scheme of grants is Friday 28<sup>th</sup> November 2008.

Application forms and further information about the scheme of grants, including assessment criteria, are available from the Family Support Agency, St Stephen's Green House, Earlsfort Terrace, Dublin 2. Website [www.fsa.ie](http://www.fsa.ie) or telephone: 01 611 4100.

**ENDS**