



An Roinn Leanaí
agus Gnóthai Óige
Department of Children
and Youth Affairs



Information sheet for Parent or Guardian of a 20-year-old

Why are we visiting you now?

Growing Up in Ireland is a longitudinal study. This means the study involves several interviews of the same people over many years. Your 20-year-old has been involved in the study since they were 9 years of age. We visited families again when the children were 13 and 17-18 years. Now that the young adults are 20-years old we would like to see how they are getting on since they have become an adult and are entering a new stage of their lives.

Even if your family missed some of the other visits when your child was younger, you can rejoin the study now. However, as before, it is entirely your choice whether or not you take part.

Your participation counts

Studies like these help us to understand the lives of young people and how best to influence policies that can improve the future for all young adults and families in Ireland. We hope that you can support us in our work and we would like to thank you, in advance, for your help.

Who is running the study?

Growing Up in Ireland is funded by the Government, with a contribution from The Atlantic Philanthropies. It is being carried out by a group of independent researchers led by the Economic and Social Research Institute (ESRI) and Trinity College Dublin.

What does taking part in this interview involve?

An interviewer will contact you in the next week or so to arrange to interview you at your home. We will usually interview the same parent who took part in the previous interviews. We will also arrange to interview your 20-year-old. If your 20-year-old no longer lives at home, the interviewer will ask you for their address where the 20-year-old can be contacted. We will then try to interview them at that new address.

All 20-year-olds who participate in this round of the study will be invited to enter a prize draw. Further details are included on their information sheet which has been posted separately.

Our interviewer will ask you some questions in a face-to-face interview. They will also give you some more questions, which might be considered more sensitive or private, to fill out on your own. The interviewer would also like to record your height and weight.

How do we deal with issues of confidentiality?

As with the previous interviews, we treat all the information you give to a **Growing Up in Ireland** interviewer during the survey, in the strictest confidence. It can be used only for research purposes. No-one in Government or any government agency or department will be able to associate you or your family with the information you provide.

The study is being carried out under the Statistics Act (1993). This is the same legislation used to carry out the Census of Population. It ensures complete confidentiality of all the information collected.

However, if an interviewer observes something or is told something outside the answers given to the survey questions which causes them or the people running the study to have serious concerns for the welfare of a child or other vulnerable person, they may have to tell someone who can help.

We will use an ID number on your questionnaire. This will help us to make sure that we keep your information anonymous. We will then store a file with the anonymous information from the participants in the study on a computer. We do this to make the information available to researchers (through the Irish Social Science Data Archive). You can find out about how information is used on www.growingup.ie.

If you decide not to take part in the study, it will not affect any health, educational or social care which you or your family receive from the State.

What kind of questions will the interviewer ask you?

This interview will be similar to the last one. We will be asking questions about your:

- health
- family
- relationship with the 20-year-old at the centre of the study.

The questions are straightforward, though some are quite detailed, and some will cover relatively sensitive issues.

The interviewer will be able to help if you have any concerns or questions about the survey questionnaire itself. If you don't want to answer any questions, you can just skip them and continue with the rest of the interview.

Following up in a few years' time

It has not yet been decided if there will be another round of follow-up interviews. However, it is possible that we may wish to visit your home again in a few years' time for a further interview.

Who are the interviewers?

The interviewer who will call to your home is from the ESRI. Each interviewer carries a photo ID card.

Each interviewer has been specially trained for the study and has been vetted by An Garda Síochána. Even though the interviewer will not be interviewing children they are not allowed to be alone with any child at any time during their visit to your home.

You can check the identity of your interviewer (or let us know if you were unhappy with the way the interview was conducted) by calling Freephone 1800 200 434.

Where can you find out more information?

- **Phone:** Freephone 1800 200 434 or 01-863 2000
- **Online:** Email us at growingup@esri.ie or visit www.growingup.ie
- **Write:** *Growing Up in Ireland*, ESRI, Whitaker Square, Sir John Rogerson's Quay, Dublin 2