



**North Tipperary Children's Disability Network Team (CDNT) Family Network  
Nomination Form for role of Family Representative**

1<sup>st</sup> April 2025

Dear Parents/Guardians,

The North Tipperary Children's Disability Network Team (CDNT) Family Network are seeking to elect a new Family Representative to the North Tipperary CDNT Family Network.

***The Purpose of the North Tipperary CDNT Family Network:***

1. For the CDNT Manager (CDNM) and families to work collaboratively to improve the outcomes for children and families accessing our services and to foster a culture of trust, openness and transparency
2. To give families an opportunity to discuss general issues and ideas for service development and/or enhancement of children's disability services in their local CDNT
3. To elect two Family Representatives who will meet the CDNM regarding CDNT issues and ideas raised by the Family Network, and will join the Family Representative Group at area level
4. To share information on:
  - Service provision, governance and access
  - Community supports
  - Rights of the child and the family
  - Other relevant topics of interest
5. To facilitate Networking and sharing knowledge and experiences amongst families

***Role of Family Representatives:***

The Family Representative role requires a person to be a voice for a broad range of family experiences specific to the Children's Disability Network Team. They must also be able to represent views that may not be the same as their own.

Family Representatives are signing up to the principles and values of the CDNT programme and services.

They will represent their Family Network by expressing the views, concerns and suggestions for improvements based on collation of general areas and themes from the Family Network at the appropriate levels of the CDNT governance structure, and feedback to their Family Network.

### ***What is involved?***

Two Family Representatives are elected for each CDNT Family Network. They will remain in the role for a period to be decided by the Family Network.

The role will require a time commitment to prepare for and attend:

- All Family Network meetings for your Children's Disability Network Team (around 4 per year)
- All Family Representative Group meetings in the area (around 4 per year). This is a meeting of all the CDNT Family Representatives in the Mid-West. They are usually held in Limerick.
- In addition, Family Representatives in the area will nominate two members of the Family Representative Group to attend meetings with the Operational Management Group and Children's Disability Network Governance Group.

Characteristics of a successful family representative

- Is your child accessing or waiting for a children's disability service?
- Are you respectful of others and their perspectives?
- Are you comfortable speaking in a group and interacting with others?
- Are you a good listener?
- Are you able to use your personal experience constructively?
- Can you see beyond your own experience?
- Are you non-judgemental?
- Have you a positive attitude?
- Are you able to work collaboratively with a group?
- Have you an interest in expanding your knowledge and skills?
- Have you a desire to bring about meaningful change?
- Can you maintain confidentiality of service user and organisational information?

### ***What supports will you have?***

The Family Representatives will be supported by an Independent Facilitator at the Family Network and Family Representative Group meetings. They will have help to prepare and participate in meetings and design a template to feedback to their Family Network. The Family Representative will be provided with an information pack as part of their induction to the role, to include for example, the Governance Policy, relevant local documents and National CDNT Policies. This will have all the relevant documentation to fulfil their role.

If you are interested in becoming a Family Representative for the North Tipperary CDNT, please read and complete the Self-Nomination Form below and send it back to us.

If you are interested but would like to discuss the role further, please do give me a call at the number below.

Yours sincerely,

***Ann Somers***

**North Tipperary Children's Disability Network Team Manager**

**06740130**



## Could you be the voice of families?

### Self-Nomination Form for role of Family Representative

#### Family Network for North Tipperary Children's Disability Network Team

The North Tipperary CDNT Family Network has one existing Family Representative and seeks to elect one more Family Representative.

If you are interested in this role, we would welcome your self-nomination by Friday 16<sup>th</sup> May 2025. All those received will be shared in advance with invitees to the Family Network Meeting scheduled for Thursday 22<sup>nd</sup> May, during which an election process will take place.

Please send in your self-nomination form below before **16<sup>th</sup> May 2025**:

- By e-mail to [reception.ntcs@hse.ie](mailto:reception.ntcs@hse.ie) (with the subject line: Family Forum Nomination).
- Alternatively, you can post a copy to North Tipperary Children's Disability Network Team, Belmont, St. Conlon's Road, Nenagh, Co. Tipperary, E45E208.

## Self-Nomination Form for role of Family Representative

Name:

Address:

Email:

Phone:

Age of your child or children with complex needs:

What in broad terms is the nature of your child's disability?

Which CDNT does your child attend or is waiting to attend?

Please answer the following four questions about your experience and interest in the role using less than 300 words for each question.

1. Have you been involved in advocacy on behalf of others? If so please describe.

2. Tell us about your experience of taking part in groups and committees. Include any local, social, work or professional groups as well as disability services.

3. Tell us about other relevant experience

4. Tell us about your interest in being a Family Representative on your local Family Network meetings and the Regional Family Representatives Group.