


Legal service provision for victims of human trafficking

Dignity
Trans-national
Meeting
November
2009



Legal Aid Board

- A statutory body
- Responsible for the provision of civil legal aid though with an involvement with victims in criminal matters



Legal Aid Board – Model of service delivery

- Services delivered primarily through solicitors and other staff employed in law centres
- 34 law centres located throughout the country
- Complementary use of private solicitors for certain matters
- Three law centres with over ten years experience dedicated to asylum related matters



Service delivery in relation to anti human trafficking cases

- Services being delivered by the asylum centres
- Referrals only accepted from Garda National Immigration Bureau (GNIB)
- Referrals made where the GNIB consider a person to be a potential victim of trafficking

Services - Process



- Advice in relation to the processes e.g, determination whether they are a victim of trafficking, consequences of such a determination, potential court proceedings etc

Services - Civil



- Exploring the options available for seeking compensation and any other civil remedies that might be available
- Assisting and providing representation on issues in relation to immigration status

Services - Criminal



- Advice re criminal process
- Possible accompaniment to Garda interviews if the person is exceptionally vulnerable e.g, a child
- Possible accompaniment if a witness in court proceedings

Development of the service



- Training provided
- New area of work - experience gained will inform how the service develops

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