

Section 4: Children in the Care of the State/TUSLA

Some applicants are foster children or separated children and/or in the care of TUSLA (the Child and Family Agency). Please answer the question below to indicate if you are or have been in care.

Section 4: Children in the Care of the State/TUSLA	
Are you currently in the Care of the State/TUSLA (the Child and Family Agency) or were you previously in Care of the State/HSE? Click here for help.	Yes <input checked="" type="radio"/> No <input type="radio"/>

If **No** please continue to the next page of the handbook.

If **Yes** you do not need to complete Sections 5 to 7, but you must supply: a letter from TUSLA on TUSLA headed stationery detailing the date you were taken into care.

A foster child is any child who is looked after by someone else other than the parents, by an order of the court or TUSLA, without a formal adoption of the child by the person.

A separated child is any child under 18 years of age who is outside his/her country of origin and separated from both parents or his/her previous legal primary caregiver.

You can get the TUSLA letter from your social worker or project worker. See **www.tusla.ie** or call **01-7718500** if you have any questions. See sample TUSLA letter on page 25.

Children in Care of the State/HSE/TUSLA

If you are or were a foster/separated child or in the Care of the Health Services Executive/TUSLA, you must:

Supply a letter from TUSLA detailing:

- That you are currently in the Care of TUSLA or you had previously been in the Care of the State/HSE.

CAO Tower House Eglinton Street Galway	1 March 2025
To Whom It May Concern:	
_____ (name of HEAR Applicant) is currently/ or was previously in the care of TUSLA / the HSE.	
He / she was taken into care from _____ (month / year)	
Kind regards,	
Name of Social Worker / Project Worker Position in TUSLA / HSE Contact Telephone Contact Email	

Important Instructions

- You can get this letter from your Social Worker or Project Worker.
- A separated child is any child under 18 years of age who is outside his/her country of origin and separated from both parents or his/ her legal/ customary primary caregiver. A foster child is any child who is looked after by someone else other than the parents, by an order of the court or the Health Service Executive/TUSLA without a formal adoption of the child by the person.
- See www.tusla.ie or contact 01 771 8500