

Contacts who can help

National Traveller MABS

Tel: 076 107 2230 Email: info@ntmabs.org

Citizens Information Service

Tel: 0761 07 4000 Mon to Fri, 9am to 8pm.

Treoir – Support for unmarried parents

28 North Great Georges Street, Dublin 1

Tel: 01 6700 120 Email: info@treoir.ie

One Family – Supports for one-parent families

8 Coke Lane, Smithfield, Dublin 7

Tel: 01 662 9212 Email: info@onefamily.ie

Threshold – Accommodation advice

Tel: 1800 454 454 (Mon to Fri - times vary)

IASIO (supports to adults in prison)

Tel: 01 866 2706 Website: www.iasio.ie/

National Traveller support organisations

Irish Traveller Movement

4/5 Eustace St, Dublin 2

Tel: 01 679 6577 Email: info@itmtrav.ie

Pavee Point Traveller and Roma Centre

46 Charles Street Great, Dublin 1

Tel: 01 878 0255 Email: info@pavee.ie

Exchange House Ireland National Travellers

Service, 61 Great Strand Street, Dublin 1

Tel: 01 872 1094 Email: info@exchangehouse.ie

National Traveller Women's Forum

4/5 Eustace Street, Dublin 2

Tel: 01 672 7430 Email: intwf@iol.ie

Traveller Counselling Service

6 Cabra Road, Phibsborough, Dublin 7

Tel: 086 308 1476 Email: info@travellercounselling.ie



Approved by NALA

**Travellers
in Prison Initiative**

Funded and supported by the Citizens Information Board

Your local Traveller organisation



National Traveller MABS

National Traveller MABS is a leading advocate for the financial inclusion of Travellers in Ireland.

We have produced a guide for families whose relative is in prison and for support organisations. To get a copy, contact National Traveller MABS:

By phone on 076 107 2230 or www.ntmabs.org



Do you have a family member in prison?



What you need to know and do.

About this leaflet

This leaflet tells you what you need to do when a loved one is in prison in terms of:

1. Housing and Accommodation
2. Social welfare
3. Money and bills

Please get advice about your rights and entitlements, as every situation is different.

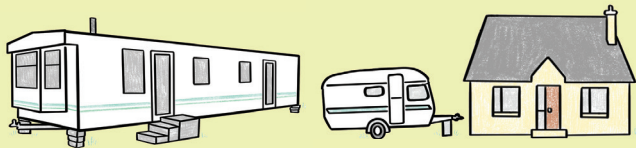
1. Housing and accommodation

If your income goes down, your rent will also go down if you:

- receive HAP, or RAS, or
- are a local authority tenant

If you live on a **halting site**, your rent will probably **stay the same**. If you are on rent supplement, nothing should change for 13 weeks. After that, changes to your rent will depend on your situation.

If you are a local authority tenant, you will need to get a certificate of imprisonment to make sure you are not charged rent for the person in prison. Any person can contact the prison governor for this. The governor will get the prisoner's consent.



You need to:

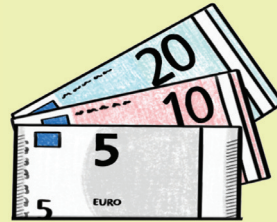
Check the **tenancy agreement** to see what it says about changes in your household and to make sure that your name is on it.

Call Threshold and ask for advice. The number is on the back of this leaflet.

2. Social Welfare

When someone is sent to prison, their social welfare payments stop. This also happens if they are on remand, sent to a young offenders institution or to the Central Mental Hospital.

If you are claiming for this person, your payments will be lower. If the person was claiming for you, you need to claim for yourself. While you are waiting for your payments, you might have to apply for an emergency payment.



You need to:

1. Make an appointment with social welfare.

Do this to make sure you get your payments, particularly if the person in prison was claiming for you.

Claiming One-Parent Family Payment?

Bring a **letter** from the prison if you need to claim this payment because your loved one will be in prison for six months or more.

Give social welfare the letter.

2. Deal with child benefit if relevant.

Contact Citizens Information. They will help you find out if you are entitled to payments – like Child Benefit – where a child whose mother has gone to prison is now **living with you** and being cared for by you. (Contacts details on back of this leaflet.)

3. Money and bills

While your loved one is in prison, you will need to:

- manage household bills, and
- avoid getting into debt

You need to:

1. Find out if the financial account is in the name of your family member in prison. If it is, you may need to **add** your name to the account **or switch** the names on the account. If you close the account, you may have to pay a deposit to open a new one or agree to pay by direct debit.
2. Contact your local **Citizens Information Centre** or local **MABS** office and ask for advice.



Where to get advice

Get advice from your local MABS and Citizens Information Service about:

- your rights
- your entitlements
- what you can appeal

Details on the back of this leaflet.