

# PRESS RELEASE

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## PUBLIC LOAN SERVICE OFFERED TO PEOPLE COPING WITH LOSS AND BEREAVEMENT

The Irish Hospice Foundation (IHF) has announced the development of a public loan service to allow individuals as well as medical, nursing and therapeutic professionals to learn more about coping with death and bereavement.

Almost 30,000 people die in Ireland every year. It is conservatively estimated that 10 people are directly affected by each death. About one in 10 of the Irish adult working population is directly affected by a death each year. More than 6,000 people annually use hospice services in Ireland.

The public loan service allows people to access some of the books available in the IHF library on death and bereavement. At present 40 titles are available for borrowing through this scheme. People can access the reading list on the Irish Hospice Foundation website ([www.hospice-foundation.ie](http://www.hospice-foundation.ie)) or contact the Foundation to request a list. A person will be able to borrow two books at a time and keep the books for one month. The loan of the books can be renewed for a further two weeks. The books will be sent by post or can be collected from the Foundation's Dublin office. The cost of the service is €5 to cover administration.

The IHF Chief Executive Officer, Eugene Murray, stated: "Christmas and the New Year can be a particularly hard time of the year for people who have been bereaved or have relatives receiving end-of-life care. At any one time, there are at least 300,000 Irish people who could be coming to terms with the pain of losing a relative or someone close to them. This service has been developed to make bereavement literature more accessible to people. Bereavement support for relatives is an integral part of hospice care. The process of grieving can affect the physical, emotional, psychological and spiritual aspects of a person's life. The service should be valuable not only to relatives but to professionals who wish to understand the most appropriate response to grief."

The IHF has established a national education and resource centre from which it provides a comprehensive range of education and training programmes on bereavement. The Foundation is a not-for-profit organisation which was set up in 1986 to promote the hospice philosophy and support the development of hospice care. The IHF vision is that no-one should have to face death without appropriate care and support including support for the family and extending into bereavement.

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