

Alternative Care

A mother arrived at the offices of the CMR, very distressed. She was desperately needing help with the care of her two boys; one aged 9 years and the other 18 months. The father was an alcoholic and no longer involved with the family.

Being disabled, the mother had always lived with her parents and they were her main support in life. Her ability to work, was limited due her disability for which she was receiving a small State support grant. Her parents had assisted in raising her children and it was primarily due to their help that she was able to look after them. Both her parents had since died and she could no longer manage raising her children on her own.

With her disability and without on-site, support she realised that she could no longer care for her boys, and they were soon placed in alternative care. The brothers needed to be separated due to their age difference – the older placed in a child and youth care centre while the younger sibling was placed in foster care.

This mother will never be able to care physically for her boys on her own but she is working hard to maintain and build an emotional relationship with them – which she has been doing for the past 5 years!

