

# Justice for Magdalenes

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## Research Guide for Relatives of Magdalene Women

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† Mary Quinn † Anne Grady † Mary Brady † Sarah Grey † Johanna Prendergast † Eliza Kelly  
† Frances Hickey † Anne Reilly † Alison Brady † Maria Walsh † Margaret Callaghan †  
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Catherine Coyle † Eliza Cafferty † Julia Clarke † Margaret Lewis † Teresa Finn † Henrietta  
Hussey † Mary Ann Kavanagh † † Rose Cavanagh † Brigid Brady † Eliza Collins † Mary  
Connor † Elizabeth Dunne † Marie Byrne † Mary Burnett † Sarah Connor † Elizabeth Fagan  
† Bridget Donovan † Martha May † Lizzie Mockler † Mary Ann Quinn † Alice McAuley †  
Esther Keenan † Bridget McNally † Margaret Dunne † Ellen O'Hanlon † Eliza McNally †  
Anne Giblin † Catherine O'Dea † Mary Doyle † Cecila Ann Brady † Elizabeth Caufield †  
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† Sarah Davidson † Belinda Leonard † Anne Morrissey † Mary Connell † REQUIESCANT IN  
PACE

## Introduction

The purpose of this Research Guide is to assist relatives of Magdalene survivors, both living and deceased, in tracing those women. When women were incarcerated in Magdalene Laundries they were separated from their families and this separation was often permanent. Many family members and friends have now come forward seeking information about these women and trying to track down a member of the family who was in a Laundry who is still alive. We hope that this guide will help you in your research and if you have any questions please do not hesitate to contact us at [info@magdalenelaundries.com](mailto:info@magdalenelaundries.com) or 086-4059491.

If you are an adopted person who is seeking your natural mother who you believe may have been incarcerated in a Magdalene Laundry, we suggest that you use this Research Guide in conjunction with the **Adoption Rights Alliance Tracing Handbook for the Adopted Person** available at [www.adoptionrightsalliance.com](http://www.adoptionrightsalliance.com)

If you are a woman who was incarcerated in a Magdalene Laundry seeking your now adult child who you lost to adoption, we advise that you consult the **Adoption Rights Alliance Tracing Handbook for the Natural Parent** available at [www.adoptionrightsalliance.com](http://www.adoptionrightsalliance.com)

**IMPORTANT:** If you are a relative of a woman who was incarcerated in a Magdalene Laundry and she has only recently revealed this to you, allow her to tell her story as and when she is ready. Do not try to persuade her to tell you her story or embark on any research if she is not ready. It might also be helpful to suggest that she seek some counselling to help her come to terms with what she went through.

## About Justice for Magdalenes

Justice for Magdalenes (JFM) is a not-for-profit, totally volunteer-run organisation, with members in Ireland, the UK, the US, EU and Australia. We are a survivor advocacy group, advocating on behalf of a population of women — living and dead, some still living in religious institutions, others living in anonymity, and many now speaking about their past — who are not recognised or acknowledged as survivors of institutional abuse by the State, by the Church, or by Irish society.

## Goals

JFM's primary goals are (i) to bring about an official apology from the Irish State and the Catholic Church, and (ii) the establishment of a distinct redress scheme for Magdalene survivors. Once JFM achieves these objectives, the door will be open to every survivor and/or her family and/or other groups representing Magdalene survivors to pursue their own claim for redress.

## Beginning Your Research

Before you set out on your journey, you should firstly gather whatever information you can from your family and other sources close to you. Some of the possible questions you could ask are below. Please note that this can be a difficult subject to talk about in a family so we suggest that you be as tactful as possible when asking the questions.

## Suggested Questions To Ask Family Members Before Starting Your Research:

- When did the woman enter the laundry?
- What part of the country was the laundry in?
- What order of nuns were involved?
- What were the circumstances surrounding the woman being in the laundry?
- Did she get out?
- Did she die behind laundry walls?

# 1. Contacting the Religious Order

Once you have gathered whatever information you can, your first step should be to contact the religious order that ran the laundry in question. If you don't know what laundry was involved, then we suggest that you write to all of them. We have provided a sample letter below to give you an idea of the wording you should use. There is a list of names and addresses of the religious orders at the end of this document.

## Guidelines for Dealing with Religious Orders

- ✓ Always communicate **in writing** preferably using **Registered (Signed For) Post**.
  - ✓ **Do not** give the order a contact number. If you absolutely have to contact the order by phone (e.g. to arrange an appointment), we advise that you use a private number (this can be done from any Irish landline by placing 141 before the number to be dialled).
  - ✓ Remember, you have the right to be treated respectfully.
  - ✓ Do not automatically believe everything you are told – e.g. miraculous fires and floods in convents resulting in destroyed records, denial that your relative was in the Laundry
  - ✓ If you are told that you have been placed on a waiting list, ask how long the wait is and ask to be kept regularly informed of your place in the queue.
  - ✓ Ask for the name of the person dealing with your query and address all correspondence to this person.
  - ✓ If you feel the order is treating you unfairly, please contact Justice for Magdalenes.
  - ✓ Keep track of your paperwork in a folder or file and keep a copy of any correspondence sent to the agency.
  - ✓ If you wish, copy your correspondence to Justice for Magdalenes, clearly stating that you have done so at the end of the letter.
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### Sample Letter to the Religious Orders:

Your Name and Address

Date

Name of Religious Order  
Address of Religious Order

To Whom It May Concern:

I believe that my [state relationship e.g. mother/aunt/sister etc] was in a Magdalene Laundry that was run by your order at [INSERT ADDRESS OF LAUNDRY] . I would be obliged if you could supply me with whatever information you have on file in relation to this person.

The details are as follows:

Name of Magdalene woman  
Date of Birth of Magdalene Woman  
Date of death of Magdalene Woman (if applicable)

I would appreciate if you could give this matter your immediate attention.

Yours faithfully,

[INSERT YOUR NAME HERE]

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## Sample Questions to Ask Religious Orders

Below is a sample list of additional questions that you might like to ask the religious order once you have established which order was involved. If you cannot get any of the religious orders to admit your relative was incarcerated in their Laundry, then send the list to all of them. You should amend the list to reflect your own situation.

- What date did my relative enter the Laundry?
- What name was my relative given in the Laundry?
- What were her responsibilities in the Laundry?
- What hours did she work?
- Was she paid for her work?
- Are there tax records for her?
- Did her family know she was in the Laundry?
- Did she receive any visitors while she was in the Laundry?
- What is her education level?
- What was her health during her time in the Laundry? Was she ill at any stage? Did she receive medical attention?
- Did she ever leave the Laundry?
- If so, what date did she leave? Where did she go?
- Did she die behind Laundry walls?
- If so, what was the date and cause of death?
- If so, where is she buried and under what name?
- Was her death registered?
- Is she still residing in the care of the religious order?
- What is her current residence?
  
- Was she transferred from an industrial school and if so, what were the circumstances surrounding the transfer?
  - Did the Magdalene Laundry request the transfer?
  - Did the industrial school request the transfer?
  
- Was she transferred from a psychiatric institution and if so, what were the circumstances surrounding the transfer?
  - Did the Magdalene Laundry request the transfer?
  - Did the psychiatric institution request the transfer?
  
- Was she transferred from a mother and baby home and if so, what were the circumstances surrounding the transfer?
  - Did the Magdalene Laundry request the transfer?
  - Did the mother and baby home request the transfer?
- Was she transferred from the Magdalene Laundry to a mother and baby home and then back to the Laundry and if so what were the circumstances surrounding the conception of the child?
  - How many children did she give birth to and what became of them?
  
- Was she incarcerated in the Magdalene Laundry via the courts service?
  - What was her alleged crime?
  - What was the sentence?
  - What was the actual time served?

## 2. Contacting Government Departments & Other Agencies

While some women were directly incarcerated in Magdalene Laundries, many more were transferred via industrial schools, mother and baby homes, psychiatric institutions and were incarcerated via the courts service. You should write to the government department involved and seek whatever information they possess on file. Some sample questions and a sample letter are supplied below. You should amend the questions and letters to reflect your own situation.

### Guidelines for Dealing with Government Departments

- ✓ Always communicate **in writing** preferably using **Registered (Signed For) Post**.
- ✓ **Do not** give a contact number. If you absolutely have to contact the department by phone (e.g. to arrange an appointment), we advise that you use a private number (this can be done from any Irish landline by placing 141 before the number to be dialled).
- ✓ Remember, you have the right to be treated respectfully.
- ✓ If you are told that you have been placed on a waiting list, ask how long the wait is and ask to be kept regularly informed of your place in the queue.
- ✓ Ask for the name of the person dealing with your query and address all correspondence to this person.
- ✓ If you feel you are being treated unfairly, please contact Justice for Magdalenes.
- ✓ Keep track of your paperwork in a folder or file and keep a copy of any correspondence sent to the agency.
- ✓ If you wish, copy your correspondence to Justice for Magdalenes, clearly stating that you have done so at the end of the letter.

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#### Sample Letter to Department of Education:

Your Name and Address

Date

John Kelly  
Principal Officer  
Residential Institutions Redress Unit  
Cornamaddy  
Athlone  
Co. Westmeath

Dear Mr. Kelly,

I believe that my [state relationship e.g. mother/aunt/sister etc] was in the industrial school at [INSERT ADDRESS OF SCHOOL]. I also believe that she was transferred to a Magdalene Laundry at [INSERT ADDRESS OF LAUNDRY]. I would be obliged if you could supply me with whatever information you have on file in relation to this person.

The details are as follows:

Name of Magdalene woman  
Date of Birth of Magdalene Woman  
Date of death of Magdalene Woman (if applicable)

I would also be obliged if you could answer the following questions:

1. What are the circumstances surrounding my relative's admission to the industrial school?

2. What were the circumstances surrounding the transfer from the industrial school to the Magdalene Laundry?
3. Did the Magdalene Laundry request the transfer?
4. Did the industrial school request the transfer?
5. Did she ever leave the Laundry?
6. Did she die behind Laundry walls? If so, what was the date & cause of death, where is she buried and under what name?
7. Is she still residing in the care of the religious order?

I would appreciate if you could give this matter your immediate attention.

Yours faithfully,

[INSERT YOUR NAME HERE]

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### **Sample Letter to Psychiatric Hospitals:**

Your Name and Address

Date

Name of Psychiatric Hospital

Address of Psychiatric Hospital

To Whom It May Concern:

I believe that my [state relationship e.g. mother/aunt/sister etc] was a patient at [INSERT ADDRESS OF HOSPITAL]. I also believe that she was transferred to a Magdalene Laundry at [INSERT ADDRESS OF LAUNDRY]. I would be obliged if you could supply me with whatever information you have on file in relation to this person.

The details are as follows:

Name of Magdalene woman

Date of Birth of Magdalene Woman

Date of death of Magdalene Woman (if applicable)

I would also be obliged if you could answer the following questions:

1. What were the circumstances surrounding my relative being a patient at the psychiatric hospital?
2. What were the circumstances surrounding the transfer from the psychiatric hospital to the Magdalene Laundry?
3. Was she considered fit for work?
4. Did the Magdalene Laundry request the transfer?
5. Did the hospital request the transfer?
6. Did she ever leave the Laundry?
7. Did she die behind Laundry walls? If so, what was the date & cause of death, where is she buried and under what name?
8. Is she still residing in the care of the religious order?

I would appreciate if you could give this matter your immediate attention.

Yours faithfully,

[INSERT YOUR NAME HERE]

If your relative was transferred from a psychiatric institution, we also suggest that you write to the Mental Health Commission and a sample letter is below:

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**Sample Letter to Mental Health Commission:**

Your Name and Address

Date

Mental Health Commission  
St Martin's House  
Waterloo Road  
Dublin 4

To Whom It May Concern:

I believe that my [state relationship e.g. mother/aunt/sister etc] was a patient at [INSERT ADDRESS OF HOSPITAL]. I also believe that she was transferred to a Magdalene Laundry at [INSERT ADDRESS OF LAUNDRY].

I would be obliged if you could investigate the circumstances surrounding this transfer, namely:

1. What were the circumstances surrounding my relative being a patient at the psychiatric hospital?
2. What were the circumstances surrounding the transfer from the psychiatric hospital to the Magdalene Laundry?
3. Was she considered fit for work?
4. Did the Magdalene Laundry request the transfer?
5. Did the hospital request the transfer?
6. Did she ever leave the Laundry?
7. Did she die behind Laundry walls? If so, what was the date & cause of death, where is she buried and under what name?
8. Is she still residing in the care of the religious order?

Her details are as follows:

Name of Magdalene woman  
Date of Birth of Magdalene Woman  
Date of death of Magdalene Woman (if applicable)

I would appreciate if you could give this matter your immediate attention.

Yours faithfully,

[INSERT YOUR NAME HERE]

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**Sample Letter To Religious Orders Who Ran Mother & Baby Homes:**

Your Name and Address

Date

Name of Religious Order  
Address of Religious Order

To Whom It May Concern:

I believe that my [state relationship e.g. mother/aunt/sister etc] was a resident at [INSERT ADDRESS OF MOTHER AND BABY HOME]. I also believe that she was transferred to a Magdalene Laundry at [INSERT ADDRESS OF

LAUNDRY]. I would be obliged if you could supply me with whatever information you have on file in relation to this person.

The details are as follows:

Name of Magdalene woman  
Date of Birth of Magdalene Woman  
Date of death of Magdalene Woman (if applicable)

I would also be obliged if you could answer the following questions:

1. What were the circumstances surrounding my relative being a resident at the mother and baby home?
2. What were the circumstances surrounding the transfer from the psychiatric hospital to the Magdalene Laundry?
3. Was she considered fit for work?
4. Did the Magdalene Laundry request the transfer?
5. Did the mother and baby home request the transfer?
6. Was she transferred from the Magdalene Laundry to a mother and baby home and then back to the Laundry and if so what were the circumstances surrounding the conception of the child?
7. How many children did she give birth to and what became of them?
8. Did she ever leave the Laundry? If so, what date did she leave? Where did she go?
9. Did she die behind Laundry walls? If so, what was the date & cause of death, where is she buried and under what name?
10. Is she still residing in the care of the religious order?

I would appreciate if you could give this matter your immediate attention.

Yours faithfully,

[INSERT YOUR NAME HERE]

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**Sample Letter To Department of Justice:**

Your Name and Address

Date

Mr. James Martin  
Assistant Secretary  
Department of Justice, Equality and Law Reform  
94 St. Stephen's Green  
Dublin 2

Dear Mr. Martin,

I believe that my [state relationship e.g. mother/aunt/sister etc] was transferred to a Magdalene Laundry at [INSERT ADDRESS OF LAUNDRY] through the courts system. I would be obliged if you could supply me with whatever information you have on file in relation to this person.

The details are as follows:

Name of Magdalene woman  
Date of Birth of Magdalene Woman  
Date of death of Magdalene Woman (if applicable)

I would also be obliged if you could answer the following questions:

1. What were the circumstances surrounding my relative being incarcerated at the Magdalene Laundry?
2. What was her alleged crime?
3. What was the sentence, if any?

4. What was the actual time served?
5. Did the Department of Justice monitor her during her time at the Magdalene Laundry?
6. Did she ever leave the Laundry? If so, what date did she leave? Where did she go?
7. Did she die behind Laundry walls? If so, what was the date & cause of death, where is she buried and under what name?
8. Is she still residing in the care of the religious order?

I would appreciate if you could give this matter your immediate attention.

Yours faithfully,

[INSERT YOUR NAME HERE]

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### **3. What Are You Searching For?**

Before you embark on your search, you should establish what you are trying to achieve. For example, if your relative is deceased, you might want to seek out as much information as you can about her in order to paint a picture of her life. In this instance you may want to start with obtaining her death certificate (assuming you know her full name) and working backwards from there. The section below will guide you through the process of the civil registration system and will aid you in obtaining birth, death and marriage certificates. On the other hand, you may not know very little, i.e. whether your relative is alive or not, or indeed if she managed to get out of the laundry. In this particular case you will be trying to obtain information from wherever you can. Often, the best place is to start at the beginning with her birth certificate and move forward from there. The birth certificate will give you her date and place of birth and is a good foundation to build a search on.

You might also want to consider whether your relative married before entering the laundry or if she had children, so it is worth searching for this in the General Registrar's Office. If she was not married and you think she had children, you should search for instances where the mother's maiden name and the child's surname are the same.

If you find that the civil records are not yielding sufficient information, you can also try the church (parish) records and you can read more about this below.

If your relative would have been in the laundry in either 1901 or 1911, you can search for her in the Census records. The 1911 Census is available online and Justice for Magdalenes has put as many of the Census records for Magdalene Laundries as we can find online.

The searching process can be a lengthy one, depending on how unusual a surname is (e.g. a surname like D'Arcy is going to be a lot easier to find than a surname like Murphy. However with a lot of persistence and diligence, you will usually be able to find a certain amount of information from the various sources, which will give you the basis to try and retry other sources.

If there is anything you feel you need help with we would be happy to take a look at your work and give you some suggestions.

## 4. Visiting The General Registrar's Office

In the course of your research you may need to visit the Research Room in the General Registrar's Office in order to obtain birth, death or marriage certificates. The Research Room is located at 3rd Floor, Block 7, Irish Life Centre, Lower Abbey Street, Dublin 1, though as you will see from the map below, it is often easier to access via The Irish Life Mall on Talbot Street. If you are travelling by car, there is a car park at the Irish Life Centre. Take the elevator to the 3rd floor and turn right.



### General Information/Tips For Your Visit To The Research Room

- ✓ Opening hours are Monday to Friday from 9.30am – 4.30pm (open during lunch).
- ✓ Read this section of the Research Guide thoroughly before you go
- ✓ Bring a copy of this Research Guide with you to the Research Room
- ✓ Bring pens, a notepad and ruler (you might find the ruler useful when checking the books)
- ✓ Bring sufficient money to cover you for the day.
- ✓ When you pay for a General Search (€20), you can request as many books as you wish for the same fee for that day. However, you will still have to pay for photocopies of certificates individually (€4 each).
- ✓ When you pay for a Five Year Search (€2), you will receive books for five **consecutive** years (e.g. 1973 – 1977), though when searching for your birth certificate you will only need the book for your year of birth (unless you were born late in the year, in which case see the section below about searching the registers).
- ✓ Only five photocopies of certificates per person per day are allowed, though they will post out any surplus requests to you if you wish.
- ✓ Bring a friend or relative if they are available to help look through the registers and avail of double the amount of photocopies.
- ✓ Do not hesitate to ask Research Room staff for help.

### Research Room Fees:

General Search: €20

Five Year Search: €2

Photocopies: €4

Full Certificates: €8 with references, €10 without

## 4.1 Searching The Registers at the Research Room

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|---|
| <b>IMPORTANT! PLEASE READ BEFORE SEARCHING THE REGISTERS!</b> |
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- **Take your time** looking through the books
- Search **all** of the books, even if you think you have found what you are looking for after a short amount of time
- Make sure you **check all four quarters** for registrations before 1966 (see below)
- If the date of birth/death/marriage was late in the year (November or December), you should search the book for the year after the birth as well, because it was common for these events to be registered at the beginning of the following year.
- Check the back of the books for **hand written late registrations**.
- Please note, some birth/death/marriage certificates will have different first names – e.g. your relative might be known as Bridget, but on her birth certificate the name might be Mary Bridget. So, it is important to be watchful for this phenomenon as it can lead a lot of people astray.

### 4.1.1 Format of the Register of Live Births

The format of the registers changed in January 1966 so we shall explain both formats.

#### Pre January 1966:

Births prior to January 1966 were registered every three months; the books are separated into four quarters, March, June, September and December with no dates of birth included in the books. **Please ensure you check all four quarters.**

#### Format of Pre 1966 Registers:

| Surname | First Name | Mother's Maiden Name | District  | Vol | Page |
|---------|------------|----------------------|-----------|-----|------|
| Murphy  | Mary       | Jones                | Dublin S  | 2   | 421  |
| Murphy  | Bridget    | Smith                | Delvin    | 3   | 211  |
| Murphy  | Sheila     | McKenna              | Dublin N  | 4   | 433  |
| Murphy  | Anne       | Murphy*              | Mullingar | 5   | 187  |

\*This is an example of a possible unmarried birth registration – i.e. the mother's maiden name and child's surname are the same.

#### Format of Post January 1966 Registers:

Births from January 1966 are sorted alphabetically, and not separated into quarters, but dates of birth are included in the registers.

#### Format of Post 1966 Registers:

| Surname | First Name | Mother's Maiden Name | District  | Date of Birth | Vol | Page | Qtr |
|---------|------------|----------------------|-----------|---------------|-----|------|-----|
| Murphy  | Mary       | Jones                | Dublin S  | 22-05-1944    | 2   | 421  | 3   |
| Murphy  | Bridget    | Smith                | Delvin    | 15-02-1953    | 3   | 211  | 1   |
| Murphy  | Sheila     | McKenna              | Dublin N  | 22-03-1962    | 4   | 433  | 2   |
| Murphy  | Anne       | Murphy               | Mullingar | 23-07-1954    | 5   | 187  | 4   |

\*This is an example of a possible unmarried birth registration – i.e. the mother's maiden name and child's surname are the same.

**Please Note:** There will be three or four books for the year of birth, registered alphabetically.

#### 4.1.2 Searching the Register of Deaths

##### Pre January 1966:

Deaths prior to January 1966 were registered every three months; the books are separated into four quarters, March, June, September and December with no date of death included in the books. **Please ensure you check all four quarters.**

##### Format of Pre 1966 Registers:

| Name            | Age | District | Vol | Page |
|-----------------|-----|----------|-----|------|
| Murphy, Mary    | 68  | Dublin S | 2   | 421  |
| Murphy, Bridget | 71  | Delvin   | 3   | 211  |
| Murphy, Sheila  | 45  | Dublin N | 4   | 433  |

##### Format of Post January 1966 Registers:

Deaths from January 1966 are sorted alphabetically, and not separated into quarters, but the date of death and marital status are included in the registers.

##### Format of Post 1966 Registers:

| Name            | Age | Marital Status | District | Date of Death | Vol | Page | Qtr |
|-----------------|-----|----------------|----------|---------------|-----|------|-----|
| Murphy, John    | 68  | Bachelor       | Dublin S | 22-05-1973    | 2   | 421  | 2   |
| Murphy, Bridget | 71  | Spinster       | Delvin   | 15-02-1953    | 3   | 211  | 1   |
| Murphy, Sheila  | 45  | Married        | Dublin N | 22-03-1973    | 4   | 433  | 1   |

#### **IMPORTANT**

If you do not find a death certificate for your relative contact Justice for Magdalenes as it is possible her death was not registered.

If you find that your relative is buried in an unmarked grave, please contact us.

#### 4.1.3 Searching the Register of Marriages

##### Pre January 1966:

Marriages prior to January 1966 were registered every three months; the books are separated into four quarters, March, June, September and December with no date of death included in the books. **Please ensure you check all four quarters.**

##### Format of Pre 1966 Registers:

| Name            | District | Vol | Page |
|-----------------|----------|-----|------|
| Murphy, Mary    | Dublin S | 2   | 421  |
| Murphy, Bridget | Delvin   | 3   | 211  |
| Murphy, Sheila  | Dublin N | 4   | 433  |

Note: Marriages are registered in both the married and maiden surnames so you can use this to help you narrow things down by checking for a corresponding marriage under the maiden name, if known.

##### Format of Post January 1966 Registers:

Marriages from January 1966 are sorted alphabetically, and not separated into quarters, but the date of marriage and spouse's surname are included in the registers.

## Format of Post 1966 Registers:

| Name            | Spouse's Surname | District | Date of Marriage | Vol | Page | Qtr |
|-----------------|------------------|----------|------------------|-----|------|-----|
| Murphy, John    | Bachelor         | Dublin S | 22-05-1973       | 2   | 421  | 2   |
| Murphy, Bridget | Spinster         | Delvin   | 15-02-1953       | 3   | 211  | 1   |
| Murphy, Sheila  | Married          | Dublin N | 22-03-1973       | 4   | 433  | 1   |

## 4.2 Requesting Photocopies

At this point you should have narrowed down the possibilities significantly. You should request photocopies of the possible entries on your list. To do this you must fill in a photocopy request form with the volume, page number and quarter and hand it in to a staff member at the Research Room.

**Please Note:** Don't throw away extra photocopies and notes, as they might be useful to someone else. If you do not wish to store them yourself, post to Justice for Magdalenes at the following address: Justice for Magdalenes, Crocknahattina, Bailieborough, Co. Cavan, with a note saying they are extra photocopies you did not need.

## 5. Visiting The National Archives



The Reading Room of the National Archives, Bishop St. Dublin 8 is open from Monday to Friday, 10.00 till 17.00, to members of the public in possession of a valid Reader's Ticket.

You can order documents from 10.00am-3.15pm.

When you first visit the National Archives, you will need to apply for a Reader's Ticket. In order to obtain the Reader's Ticket you will need to provide photographic identification, though you will not be charged. You can download an application form for your Reader's Ticket in advance of your visit to the National Archives and fill it in before you leave. Visit the National Archives website to download the form <http://www.nationalarchives.ie/PDF/NAIReadersApplication.pdf>

### Some of the archives held by the National Archives that may interest you include:

1. Census 1901
2. Census 1911 (**Available online**)
3. Coroner's Inquests

4. Archives of Government Departments 1922–1979;
5. Archives of other governmental agencies;
6. Archives of the courts and probate registries;
7. Archives from other sources, including Church of Ireland parishes, health boards, hospitals, schools, charities, trade unions, business firms, solicitors' offices, estate offices;

You can obtain copies of most records held at the National Archives and for further information on this visit the National Archives website at [www.nationalarchives.ie](http://www.nationalarchives.ie)

## 6. Church Records

In the course of your research you may need to avail of parish records (as opposed to records from religious orders). For example, if you found that the civil registration system did not give you the results you needed, you could write to the parish of the woman in question and ask for a **full baptismal certificate**. These certificates often include the woman's baptism, marriage and death if applicable and can be useful in filling in the gaps. We recommend that you include a donation which might help to expedite your request. If you are having difficulty in locating the contact details for the parish in question, contact us and we will try to help.

## 7. Other Sources

### 7.1 UK Records

If your relative managed to leave the laundry it is possible she travelled to the UK, like many other Magdalene survivors. There are a number of resources you can use in the UK to trace people.

#### 7.1.1 Find My Past

Find My Past contains civil registrations, available online.

When you obtain details from Find My Past you can apply for certificates at:

General Register Office  
 PO Box 2,  
 Southport  
 Merseyside PR8 2JD  
 Tel: 0870-243 7788  
 Email: [certificate.services@ons.gov.uk](mailto:certificate.services@ons.gov.uk)  
 Web: [www.col.statistics.gov.uk](http://www.col.statistics.gov.uk)

OR

Family Records Centre  
 1 Myddelton Street  
 London EC1R 1UW  
 Tel: 0870-243 7788  
 General Enquiries: 0208-392 5300  
 Email: [frc@nationalarchives.gov.uk](mailto:frc@nationalarchives.gov.uk)  
 Web: <http://www.familyrecords.gov.uk/frc>

<http://www.findmypast.co.uk/home.jsp>

#### 7.1.2 192.com

192.com is a great resource to find people via phone books and electoral rolls.

<http://www.192.com/>



### 7.1.3 Genes Reunited

Genes Reunited is another useful resource to help you track down family members.

<http://www.genesreunited.co.uk>

## 7.2 Search Engines

Search engines such as [www.google.ie](http://www.google.ie) or [www.yahoo.co.uk](http://www.yahoo.co.uk) have proven to be very useful searching tools. When you visit a particular search engine just simply type in the name of the person you are looking for and see what results you come up with. Try to use different combinations when you are searching so that you can maximise the results, see the examples below:

“Jane Jones”

“Jones, Jane”

“janejones”

Jane Jones

“J Jones”

If you know that the person you are looking for lives in Ireland you can also ask the search engine to only find pages from Ireland.

## 7.3 Barnardos Origins Information and Tracing Service

You may find it helpful, if it is appropriate to your situation to contact the Barnardos Origins Information and Tracing Service which provides assistance to people who grew up in Ireland's industrial schools in tracing their families.

For further information contact:

Barnardos, Christchurch Square, Dublin 8

Tel: 01 453 0355

Email: [origins@barnardos.ie](mailto:origins@barnardos.ie)

## 7.4 Department of Social and Family Affairs

We are aware of a service provided by the Department of Social and Family Affairs whereby they will deliver a letter on your behalf to an individual, without giving you the individual's address. We are presently researching this service and will update this Guide when we obtain the information.

## 8. How to Make Contact

If you are searching for a Magdalene survivor who is still alive, you will eventually reach the point when you have your research narrowed down and you will have contact details for a particular person. We would urge you to remain calm at this point and think things through before acting. Please read this section carefully and contact us if you have any questions.

**Please note! Before making any kind of contact double check your work to ensure you have definitely got the right details!**

### 8.1 Phone, Visit or Letter?

Even if you know your relative's phone number and know where she lives, we advise that you make contact **by letter or email only**. Many Magdalene survivors will want to keep this part of their past private and you should respect that. Therefore, phoning or arriving on a doorstep is not a helpful way of making contact in these circumstances. A letter or email is a safer method to use, because your relative can read it over and make contact with you in her own time.

Though you might be eager to make contact with your relative, bear in mind that while you know you have been tracing, your relative doesn't and won't have had time to prepare herself.

Although you might have your relative's address and phone number, you won't know what members of her family are aware of the fact that she was in a Magdalene Laundry; therefore discretion is of the utmost importance. A discreet letter saying that you are doing some family research is the most appropriate way to proceed.

Justice for Magdalenes would like to wish you the best of luck with your research!

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**Distribution of this document is encouraged, but no alterations are permitted.**

## Suggested Reading List

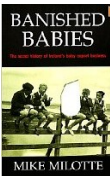
Justice for Magdalenes recommends the following books and film for more information on the Magdalene Laundries and the related issue of adoption in and from Ireland.



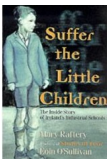
***Ireland's Magdalen Laundries and the Nation's Architecture of Containment***  
by James M. Smith



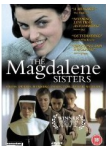
***Do Penance or Perish***  
by Frances Finnegan



***Banished Babies***  
by Mike Milotte



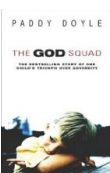
***Suffer the Little Children*** by  
Mary Raftery & Eoin O'Sullivan



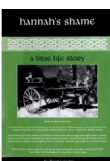
***The Magdalene Sisters***  
directed by Peter Mullan



***The Light in the Window***  
by June Goulding



***The God Squad***  
by Paddy Doyle



***Hannah's Shame***  
By Derek Leinster

## **Religious Order Contact Details (Laundries & Industrial Schools)**

### **Good Shepherd Sisters**

Ran Magdalene Laundries at New Ross, Waterford, Cork (Sundays Well), Limerick and industrial schools in Cork, Waterford, New Ross and Limerick

Good Shepherd Provincialate  
245 Lower Kilmacud Road  
Goatstown  
Dublin 14

Tel: 01-2982699  
Fax: 01-2989033

Email: [rgsdublin@eircom.net](mailto:rgsdublin@eircom.net)

Provincial Superior: Sr. Noreen O'Shea

### **Mercy Sisters**

Ran Magdalene Laundries in Galway and DunLaoghaire (and one in Tralee that closed approx 1907-8) and industrial schools at Athlone, Goldenbridge, Tralee, Booterstown, Templemore, Galway (Renmore & Ballinasloe), Loughrea, Birr, Clare, Cobh, Clifden, Clonakilty, Cappoquin, Dundalk, Killarney, Kinsale, Mallow, Moate, Summerhill, Rathdrum, Newtownforbes, Westport, Wexford and Limerick.

Mercy Congregational Archives  
Catherine McAuley Centre  
23 Herbert Street  
Dublin 2

Tel: 01-6387521

Mercy Sisters  
14 Walnut Avenue  
Courtlands  
Drumcondra  
Dublin 9

Tel: 01-8377602  
Fax: 01-8570684

### **Sisters of Charity**

Ran Magdalene Laundries in Cork (Peacock Lane) and Donnybrook; other laundries at Henrietta Street and Stanhope Street and industrial schools in Kilkenny, Ballaghadereen, Dublin (Lakelands), Sligo Town

Religious Sisters of Charity Generalate  
Caritas  
15 Gilford Road  
Sandymount  
Dublin 4

Tel: 01-2697833/2697935

## **Sisters of Charity continued...**

Religious Sisters of Charity Provincialate  
Provincial House  
Our Lady's Mount  
Harold's Cross  
Dublin 6W

Tel: 01-4973177

## **Sisters of Our Lady of Charity (of Refuge)**

Ran Magdalene Laundries at High Park, and Gloucester Street/Sean McDermott Street (merged with Mecklenburg Street) and ran industrial schools at High Park and Kilmacud

Sisters of Our Lady of Charity  
4 Beechlawn  
High Park Grounds  
Grace Park Road  
Dublin 9

Tel: 01-8368887  
Fax: 01-8377311

Email: [regionaloffice@olc.ie](mailto:regionaloffice@olc.ie)

Superior: Sr. Teresa Burke

## **Other Religious Orders (Industrial schools – girls only)**

### **Order of the Poor Clares**

Ran an industrial school at Cavan Town

Poor Clare Monastery  
Upper Faughart  
Dundalk., Co. Louth  
IRELAND

Tel. 353 (0)42 937 1966

Fax 353 42 937 1908

Email: [poorclares@poorclaresireland.org](mailto:poorclares@poorclaresireland.org)

### **Sisters of St. Louis**

Ran an industrial school in Monaghan Town, moved to Bundoran in 1957

Mill Road  
Dundalk  
Co. Louth  
Tel: 042-9335773

### **Presentation Sisters**

Ran industrial schools in Cashel and Dundrum (Tipperary)  
Presentation Provincialate

Garden Vale  
Athlone  
Co. Westmeath  
Ireland  
Zip Code

Email: [presnpro@iol.ie](mailto:presnpro@iol.ie)

09064 72186

09064 75895

## **Religious Orders (Mother and Baby Homes)**

(May not be complete)

### **Sisters of the Sacred Heart of Jesus and Mary**

Ran mother and baby homes at Bessboro, Co. Cork; Sean Ross Abbey, Roscrea & Castlepollard, Co. Westmeath.

Sacred Heart Convent  
Bessboro  
Blackrock  
Cork  
Tel: 021-4357841

### **Daughters of Charity of St Vincent de Paul**

Ran a mother and baby home at St. Patricks, Navan Road  
Daughters of Charity of St Vincent de Paul  
Seton House  
Northbrook Road  
Dublin 6  
Tel: 01 - 6674346

### **Good Shepherd Sisters**

Ran a mother and baby home at Ard Mhuire Dunboyne

Good Shepherd Provincialate  
245 Lower Kilmacud Road  
Goatstown  
Dublin 14

Tel: 01-2982699  
Fax: 01-2989033

Email: [rgsdublin@eircom.net](mailto:rgsdublin@eircom.net)

Provincial Superior: Sr. Noreen O'Shea

## **Other:**

### **Legion of Mary**

(Regina Coeli Hostel)

### **International centre: Concilium Legionis Mariae (Legion of Mary)**

De Montfort House  
Morning Star Avenue  
Brunswick Street  
Dublin 7  
Ireland  
Tel: +353 1 872 3153 +++ Fax: +353 1 872 6386  
email : [concilium@legion-of-mary.ie](mailto:concilium@legion-of-mary.ie)

## **Government Departments/Agencies Contact Details**

### **Department of Education**

John Kelly  
Principal Officer  
Residential Institutions Redress Unit  
Cornamaddy  
Athlone  
Co. Westmeath

### **Department of Health**

Department of Health and Children  
Hawkins House  
Hawkins Street  
Dublin 2

### **Mental Health Commission**

Mental Health Commission  
St Martin's House  
Waterloo Road  
Dublin 4

### **Department of Justice**

Mr. James Martin  
Assistant Secretary  
Department of Justice, Equality and Law Reform  
94 St. Stephen's Green  
Dublin 2

## **Psychiatric Hospitals Contact Details**

*(May not be complete as some hospitals have closed)*

### **St. Conal's Hospital**

Letterkenny  
Co. Donegal

### **Central Mental Hospital**

Dundrum  
Co. Dublin

### **St. Brendans (Grangegorman)**

PO Box 418 Rathdown Road, Dublin, Co Dublin, 7  
Ireland  
Tel: 353 (0) 1 8693000  
Fax: 353 (0) 1 8680020

### **St. Patricks Hospital**

St James Street  
Dublin 8

### **District Mental Hospital**

Clonmel  
Co. Tipperary

### **St. Ita's Psychiatric Hospital**

Portrane  
Co. Dublin

### **St. John of Gods Hospital**

Stillorgan  
Co. Dublin

### **St. Vincent's Psychiatric Hospital**

Convent Ave  
Richmond Road  
Fairview  
Dublin 3

### **St. Loman's Hospital**

Palmerstown, Co. Dublin

### **St. Fintan's Psychiatric Hospital**

Portlaoise, Co. Laois

### **St Marys Psychiatric Hospital**

Castlebar Co. Mayo

### **St Brigids Hospital (Psychiatric)**

Ballinasloe Co. Galway

### **St. Brigid's Psychiatric Hospital**

Ardee, Co. Louth

## National Counselling Service

The National Counselling Service was set up by the HSE to provide counselling services (free of charge) to adults who have experienced child abuse, with priority given to adult survivors of institutional abuse in Ireland.

|  |              |
|--|--------------|
| North East                             | 1800 234 117 |
| North Dublin                           | 1800 234 110 |
| North West                             | 1800 234 119 |
| West                                   | 1800 234 114 |
| Mid-west                               | 1800 234 115 |
| Midlands                               | 1800 234 113 |
| Dublin South West/Kildare/West Wicklow | 1800 234 112 |
| South Dublin & East Wicklow            | 1800 234 111 |
| Kerry & Cork                           | 1800 234 116 |
| South East                             | 1800 234 118 |