

Chair, Members,

I would like to thank you for the opportunity to discuss the Retention of Records Bill 2019.

As a past resident of an institution for all of my childhood (11 mths.to 16 yrs.). I would like to have my records from the RIRB.

At the time of attending the RIRB. It was a very traumatic time for us. We had to reveal our story to people such as doctors, solicitors, family members, psychiatrists, councillors,.As these records were a requirement to attend the board it had to be done. Under normal circumstances we probably would not have revealed this information{only to someone we felt comfortable telling}. It is hard to recall our childhood at the best of times. You can imagine how exhausting mentally and physically that would have affected us at the time. One of the most stressful things we had to endure. It was very difficult to take in the full extent of what was going on. Any records such as medical records, psychological reports, and more, were often submitted by the solicitor and we the clients did not see them as they were sent directly to the RIRB. The records from the RIRB holds all of this sensitive information. It is very important for any survivor who wants to avail of personal records should have the freedom to do so. I don't think our personal information can be used as history in the future. It is our history and should be made available to us while we are still alive. It may give us a much clearer picture of what actually went on with the RIRB and who we really are.

People who were not raised in institutions (mostly) can apply for and get their records with much more ease. Why is it so difficult for us to do the same?. Life was difficult enough for us as children .We should not have to fight for what belongs to us. Is so wrong.

I would appeal to you to reconsider your line of discussion about sealing our records for 75 years. Please take into consideration what most survivors want. We are not responsible for our past or for the situation we find ourselves in regarding this bill .

Thank you for your time.

Sincerely

Eileen Molloy