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Minister Martin welcomes agreement with the Irish Haemophilia Society

11 April 2002

Micheál Martin, T.D., Minister for Health and Children, today (11 April) announced that he has reached an agreement with the Irish Haemophilia Society in relation to compensating HIV-infected haemophiliacs and their dependents.

The Minister said he welcomed the agreement, and he is satisfied that the result will be fair and equitable compensation for those affected by the contamination of blood products with HIV.

One of the key provisions of the agreement will allow the dependents of those HIV-infected haemophiliacs who have died to claim the damages for pain and suffering to which the deceased would be entitled were he in a position to make his own claim to the Tribunal.

"I am particularly happy with this novel approach to compensate the widows and children, and other family members, of those haemophiliacs who died so tragically of HIV," the Minister said.

The fatal claims will also apply to the dependents of persons who died as a result of contracting Hepatitis C from blood or blood products, where those dependents are currently entitled to make a claim to the Hepatitis C Compensation Tribunal.

The Bill to amend the Hepatitis C Compensation Tribunal Act to allow the Tribunal to compensate haemophiliacs in respect of their HIV condition is currently being drafted. It will be debated in the Dáil and Seanad next week.

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