

22nd November 2023

Media Release

The Malta Employers' Association pronounces itself against the utilisation of Employees' sick leave to look after sick children.

The Malta Employers' Association said that the Children's Policy Framework could be a step forward in introducing measures to improve the well-being of children and of families in general. The document includes positive measures that will improve child welfare if implemented.

However, the Association stated its strong opposition to the use of the sick leave entitlement of the employee to look after sick children. Sick leave is to be utilised specifically when an employee is unfit for work, and thus, by definition, should never be transferred to other persons. Such a measure will be impossible to control by employers and could lead to abusive practices. In addition, the recent scandals of having sickness certificates given over the phone, and the exposure of a widespread organised system of benefit fraud, make employers sceptical of the ethical standards of the medical profession in issuing sickness certificates. The entitlement of urgent family leave already makes it possible for employees to address family emergencies.

The document also needs to be consistent with other policies that have been introduced recently. Promoting a smoke free society whilst simultaneously legalising marijuana are conflicting strategies that many families will find confusing.