

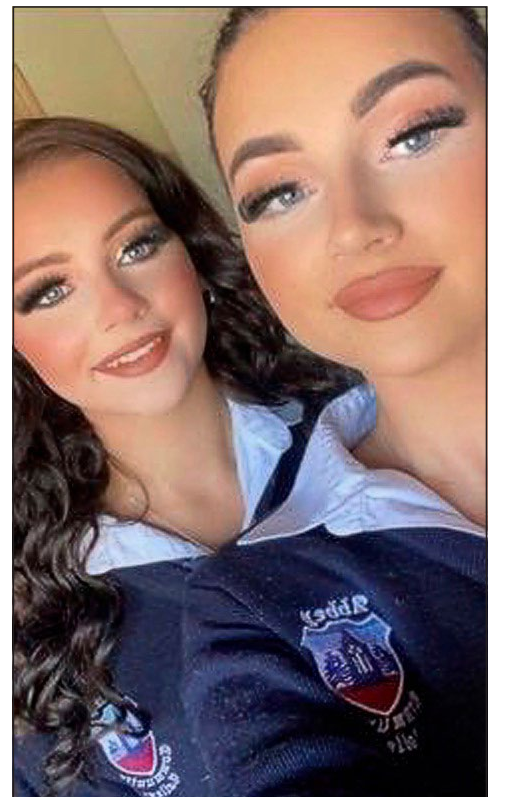


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PULLOUT**
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FREE INSIDE: Your fantastic
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Twin daughters of Irish ICE detainee say he abandoned them as babies

OUR FATHER SHOULD COME BACK TO FACE DRUG CHARGES



ESTRANGED: Twins Melissa, left, and Heather Morrissey, who are now 18 years old

THE estranged twin daughters of a man detained in the US have claimed he 'abandoned' them and called for their father to be sent home to face justice on his drugs charges.

They spoke out after ICE detainee Séamus Culleton this week appealed on RTE radio

EXCLUSIVE

By Garreth MacNamee

for the Irish Government to raise his case with US president Donald Trump so that he could return to his wife, a US citizen,

and his plastering company in the Boston, Massachusetts, area.

The twins, who will turn 19 over the coming days, said Mr Culleton 'abandoned' them when they were just 18 months old, leaving their mother Margaret (Maggie) to raise the children herself.

In an exclusive interview with the Irish

Mail on Sunday, Mr Culleton's daughters, Melissa and Heather Morrissey, claimed that their father 'is not the man he seems' and said they have little sympathy for his plight.

Their father, they say, built a new life for himself in the US but never saw his own

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Dad abandoned us as life for himself and

» From Page One

daughters in person again. Heather and Melissa claim their father is 'not the man people think he is' and said his claim that he has done 'no wrong' is false.

The two young women said their mother has not received 'a penny' in child maintenance from Mr Culleton since he 'abandoned' them.

Heather told the MoS: 'I think he should come back here and he should get arrested.'

The twins said their father was naive for going public with his case, knowing he has outstanding drugs charges against him in Ireland.

Mr Culleton, who is from Glenmore in Co. Kilkenny, compared the conditions of the detention centre where he is being held to that of a 'concentration camp' and said that he feared for his safety. Our sister paper, the Irish Daily Mail, revealed this week that Mr Culleton was charged with several offences in 2008. These included possessing drugs with intent for sale or supply, possession of drugs for personal consumption and obstructing a garda in the course of their duty.

Mr Culleton failed to appear at New Ross District Court for his hearing and a bench warrant was requested. However, the warrant was never issued as he had left the jurisdiction.

'He knows there are warrants for his arrest'

He also appeared in the same court in April 2008 for being 'extremely drunk' in public. Court reports from the time noted gardai detained him for his own safety.

Heather said: 'He was making himself out to be a saint like he's done nothing wrong, like he knows that there are warrants here for his arrest and that was going to come out.'

'How did he not know that? He went to the news. People [can] go and find this... It's public knowledge.'

The twins said they were in disbelief when they heard their father's voice on the radio.

Mr Culleton called RTE's Live-line programme on Monday.

Heather added: 'I was shocked. I am sorry now but I just think it's so funny how he can ring the news and Tiffany [Culleton's wife] and his sister but couldn't ring me or my sister.'

'He rang me the first day he got locked up because I asked his sister to ask him to ring me. I had to ask him to ring me.'

'He told me that he got detained by ICE... he doesn't know when he's going to get out. That was about it. I haven't heard from him since then.'

Heather said she texted her father's sister to let him know that

Melissa was pregnant, but still there was no contact: 'My sister hasn't heard from him.'

Heather added: 'I feel that we were born and he just up and left. He did abandon us. That's what he did.'

She said the twins were told their father was Séamus Culleton when they were 12 years old.

They looked him up on Facebook and began messaging him.

But Heather said: 'He never tried adding us or anything like that on Facebook. Then me and Melissa made it our own business then to add him. When we added him, we waited.'

'We then texted him and basically said, "You never reached out, and we never heard from you" and all that kind of stuff,' she said.

'He just said that he thought we wouldn't want to hear from him and all that kind of just silly stuff, really. And then we got afraid, in case our mom would see it on our

phone. So we just blocked him.'

Heather said the twins reached out to their father again when they were 15 or 16, and that there were some infrequent online conversations.

'He'd be texting on and off, he'd be texting, "how are you" and all this. He asked us if we were coming to see him and then I asked him if he was going to come over to see us instead, instead of us going all the way over there, and he said "no" and that he was never coming back here.'

Melissa said their father 'gave us €1,000 each' for the twins' 18th birthday last year, but 'only because we contacted him first and asked for a birthday present as a joke'.

The sisters said they were very upset when a fundraising campaign – which has so far raised more than \$30,000 (€25,000) – to pay for his legal fees was launched. They also said they felt hurt by

comments made by Mr Culleton's American wife Tiffany Smyth on TikTok, where she said she wanted Séamus to come home to her and her 'babies', referring to the couple's dogs.

Heather said: 'She posted a

'His dogs aren't his children'

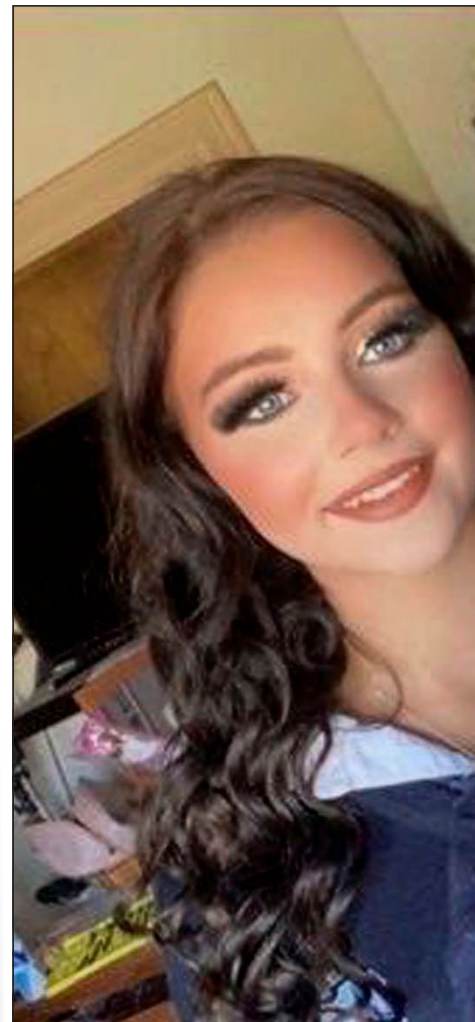
TikTok saying that she wanted their dad to come home to his kids.

'They're dogs. I understand people love animals and all that, but he has children. His dogs aren't his children.'

Referring to the money raised for her father's GoFundMe campaign, Melissa said: 'That's nearly child maintenance money. Like, you know, they're taking the p***



ON ICE: Detainee Séamus Culleton with his wife Tiffany Smyth and their dogs in the US



out of people.'

The young women also told how a relative of their father contacted them after they posted on Tiffany's TikTok that he had real children, and not just dogs.

Heather said she was shocked when the relative said their existence could hurt their father's case.

'So then [Culleton's relative] comes down my phone and was telling me to delete the comment that I am ruining his chances of getting out of ICE detention centre, wherever he is, and that I should take it down and that I don't understand.'

Melissa added: 'I feel the exact same as Heather, that I'm just hurt by what they said up on the news, and I just think that he's scandalous and that he should come home.'

'He just made us basically out, like we're just like two pieces of s***.'

Mr Culleton has pleaded with the Government to help him get out of the detention facility and has claimed the conditions where he is being detained amount to 'torture'.

He said this week: 'I'd love for you guys to just try to get me out here. Do all you can please. It's absolute torture, psychological torture, physical torture.'

'I just want to get back to my wife. We were so desperate to start a family,' he said.

babies to build a new we never got a penny



DISBELIEF: Melissa, left, and Heather Morrissey couldn't believe their absent father's appeal when they heard him on the radio. Below, Heather and mum Maggie

'My mother, especially, is heartbroken that I'm in here. She's just heartbroken over the whole situation,' he said.

Despite refusing to sign deportation documentation, and posting a \$4,000 (€3,400) bond, Mr Culleton has remained at the detention centre in El Paso, Texas, for almost five months.

'There is no quality of life here,' he said. 'I've been locked in the same room for the last four-and-a-half months. I can count on one hand how many times I've been let outside.'

However, in a statement, Tricia McLaughlin, the Assistant Secretary at the US Department of Homeland Security, said Mr Culleton received full due process and was issued a final deportation order from a federal judge.

She said: 'On September 9, 2025, ICE arrested Séamus Culleton, an illegal alien from Ireland. 'He entered the United States in 2009 under the visa waiver program, which allows you to stay in the US for 90 days without a visa.'

'He failed to depart the US.'

'He received full due process and was issued a final order of

removal by an immigration judge on September 10, 2025.

'He was offered the chance to instantly be removed to Ireland but chose to stay in ICE custody. In fact, he took affirmative steps to remain in detention.'

Ms McLaughlin said Mr Culleton's continued detention is 'his choice', adding 'Being in detention is a choice. We encourage all illegal aliens to use the CBP [Customs and Border Protection] Home app to take control of their departure.'

'The United States is offering illegal aliens \$2,600 (€2,200) and a free flight to self-deport now.'

'We encourage every person here illegally to take advantage of this offer and reserve the chance to come back to the US the right legal way to live the American dream.'

'If not, you will be arrested and deported without a chance to return.'

news@mailonsunday.ie

By Lynne Kelleher

AN IRISH-American lawyer has raised fears that Donald Trump's ICE agents will target undocumented Irish at St Patrick's Day festivities around the US next month.

James P Cavanaugh, an attorney and county commissioner in Omaha, Nebraska, said there was 'considerable fear' last year in the US on the Mexican holiday, Cinco de Mayo.

Mr Cavanaugh, who works with people seeking to ascertain rights to overseas citizenships, said Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) agents have attended public events.

The lawyer warned: 'Folks who have maybe not perfect documentation would be very, very leery to go out to St Patrick's Day. Of course, there is a huge turnout of Irish, Irish-Americans, Irish everything. There'll be hundreds of thousands, if not millions, nationwide coming out, and it'll be very interesting to see how that plays out.'

'ICE is very aggressive. They go into these things, and they just start taking people down. We've situations where they have not stepped back one bit about causing public chaos in crowded situations. So that fear is here. It's real. There are demonstrations virtually every day across the country. "Stop ICE", "Abolish ICE". I've never seen anything like this, even during Vietnam.'

He said he has heard anecdotally of cases of Irish traditional music groups having difficulty getting visas to enter America for St Patrick's Day.

'It's become kind of a, "Can you stay here? Can you get in and even can you get out?" type of a situation. It's very, very authoritarian, the tendency.'

'Some trad groups who have, maybe in the past, had affiliations with national causes, they would have some difficulty. I'm affiliated with charitable groups that traditionally bring musicians in, and this one and that one is having difficulty getting a visa.'

Brian O'Dwyer, chairman emeritus and founder of the Emerald Isle Immigration Centre, has heard of Irish immigrants being held in ICE detention centres for 'five, six months'. He said: '[It's] not unusual. I've heard of people that have been kept in detention, who agreed to be deported, and



PARTY'S OVER?: Revellers at St Patrick's Day parade in Boston last year

US immigration lawyers warn of St Patrick's Day ICE crackdown

they still kept them in detention until they figured out a way to get them out of the country. There's definitely been fathers brought back to Ireland and teenage kids and the mother here in the States. The kids are Americans, have their friends, they have their life here. What you do with the kids? Send them back to Ireland or try maintain their house here? The father is 3,000 miles away.'

He said the ESTA, which allows Irish citizens to travel to the US without a visa under the Visa Waiver Programme, can now be a hindrance to undocumented Irish. He said Ted Kennedy and others fought for this 'to help the Irish so there'd be a free flow of people'. He said this is how most Irish immigrate to the US without papers, whereas South Americans and Mexicans smuggle themselves over the border. 'The irony now is those people have far more rights in the system than the Irish.'

Dublin-born Raymond McEntee, managing partner with immigration specialists McEntee Law in Chicago, said: 'Everybody is getting caught up in this. Anybody who thinks they're not going to be targeted because they're Irish, I think

they're quite foolish to think that.'

There were 12 Irish citizens in ICE custody by November 23 last. The number of Irish citizens deported in the last year has surged by nearly 80 per cent.

ICE statistics show 107 Irish citizens were removed from the US between October 1, 2024, and September 13, 2025. Of those flown back to Ireland, 22 were convicted criminals, 24 had pending criminal charges, and 61 had other immigration law violations, according to ICE.

But Mr O'Dwyer said the crackdown has had a chilling effect on undocumented Irish. 'They get on a plane and go home,' he said. 'They see the writing on the wall, hear all these horrible stories about the detention, and say, "I don't want that to happen to myself or my family".'

A US embassy spokesman said visa adjudication is a national security decision and applicants must meet 'all eligibility requirements under the US law. Every application is reviewed individually based on facts of the case'. They added: 'Visiting the US is not an entitlement and every application is reviewed on a case-by-case basis.'



Fat jabs didn't work for us...

12-PAGE PULLOUT INSIDE

femail MAGAZINE

POLICE CALLED TO CULLETON'S U.S. HOME OVER 'INCIDENTS' WITH EX-WIFE

Boston authorities responded on two occasions to 'domestic incidents' during Kilkenny ICE detainee's four-year marriage... which ended in divorce

BOSTON police responded to two 'domestic incidents' involving ICE detainee Séamus Culleton and his ex-wife over the course of a four-year marriage that ended in divorce, the Irish

EXCLUSIVE

By Garreth MacNamee

Daily Mail can reveal.

The marriage between Mr Culleton and the woman, which we reveal today, was officially dissolved in January 2024.

Mr Culleton married in 2017 but they separated in 2019 and filed for a joint divorce in 2020. The case was

then dismissed. However, his ex-wife filed again in 2023 and they were officially divorced in 2024, court documents seen by the Mail state.

Mr Culleton then married Tiffany Smith in April 2025 and was in the process of obtaining a marriage-based Green Card before he was detained by immigration authorities in September. More files seen by the Mail show that there

Turn to Page 4



A sneak
Peaky at
Florence's
sparkler

TURN TO PAGE 7

U2 surprise fans with release of fiery new EP

By **Jamie McCarron**

U2 have released their first new music in almost a decade in a politically charged five-track EP that includes a song called *American Obituary*, about the shooting of Renée Good by ICE agents in Minneapolis last month.

And Renée's partner Rebecca Good said her late partner 'would be deeply moved by this tribute from U2, and would hope it makes a difference in the world'.

The *Days Of Ash* EP will be accompanied by a new documentary to be released next Tuesday on the fourth anniversary of Russia's invasion of Ukraine, comprised of a poem and five new songs focused on global injustice.

It will be followed by a new album later this year, and marks the first new collection of music from the band since 2017's *Songs Of Experience*.

American Obituary describes the killing of 'an unarmed mother who was then described as a "domestic terrorist" by the government'. Many of the tracks are about individuals whose lives were brutally cut short, such as a Ukrainian soldier facing off against his country's invasion.

The band described the EP as about 'the



Band of brothers: Bono, Larry Mullen Jr, Adam Clayton and The Edge

many extraordinary and courageous people fighting on the frontlines of freedom', which Bono said will strike a very

different tone to the upcoming album set for a late-2026 release.

'It's been a thrill having the four of us

back together in the studio over the last year... the songs on *Days Of Ash* are very different in mood and theme to the ones we're going to put on our album later in the year,' he said.

'These EP tracks couldn't wait; these songs were impatient to be out in the world. They are songs of defiance and dismay, of lamentation.

'Songs of celebration will follow, we're working on those now... because for all the awfulness we see normalised daily on our small screens, there's nothing

'Maddening times and we must stand up to them'

normal about these mad and maddening times and we need to stand up to them before we can go back to having faith in the future. And each other.'

The track *Yours Eternally* sees Bono and The Edge joined by Ed Sheeran and Ukrainian musician-turned-soldier Taras Topolia, who they met while busking in a metro station in Kyiv. *Song Of The Future* honours Sarina Esmailzadeh, 16, who was beaten to death by Iranian forces after taking part in a women's rights protest.

Police callouts related to 'domestic incidents'

Continued from Page One

were two Boston Police Department record numbers relating to Mr Culleton.

A Boston Police Department (BPD) report number is a unique, identifying incident number assigned to document the initial details of a crime, accident, or incident.

The Irish Daily Mail sent these unique numbers to the BPD's press office.

A spokesman said: 'Both incidents are domestic related.'

'No further information is available.'

The BPD said that they had two incident reports involving Mr Culleton but can only release them to the victim because they involve domestic issues.

The Mail revealed last week that Mr Culleton had three drugs

Charges are still 'active'

charges pending in Ireland before he left for the US.

The Irish Mail on Sunday then exposed how he left his toddler twin daughters in his native Kilkenny, who are now adults, and who told the Mail they want him to be deported to face justice.

It has also been confirmed that the charges against Mr Culleton are still 'active' and that it will be at the discretion of the Garda if he is to appear in court.

Earlier this week, he was granted a ten-day stay on a deportation order.

In response to a request for documents, the Boston Police



Held in El Paso:
Kilkenny man
Séamus
Culleton

proceedings to prevent escalation during separation.

Several efforts were made to contact Mr Culleton's ex-wife, whom we have decided not to name.

An intermediary acting on her behalf said she did not wish to speak out about Mr Culleton and she was wary that her address had been published on social media.

Several calls to her attorney went unanswered by the time of publication.

Also, multiple attempts were made to contact Mr Culleton's attorney, Ogor Winnie Okoye of BOS Legal.

Her legal secretary said there would be no further comment

Failed to appear at court

regarding Mr Culleton's legal proceedings besides what was said in a press release issued earlier this week.

Mr Culleton was charged with several offences in 2008. These included possessing drugs with intent for sale or supply, possession of drugs for personal consumption and obstructing a garda in the course of their duty.

Mr Culleton failed to appear at New Ross District Court for his hearing and a bench warrant was requested. However, the warrant was never issued as he had left the jurisdiction.

He also appeared in the same court in April 2008 for being 'extremely drunk' in public. Court reports from the time

noted how gardai detained him for his own safety. Security sources told the Mail that there is a 'strong chance' Mr Culleton could face his charges.

'It will be up to gardai whether or not they go ahead and get themselves to a local district court and ask the judge to issue a bench warrant in the case of Mr Culleton,' they said.

'We are talking about 18 years ago, but going by the publicity of this case, I reckon there's a good to strong chance he'll be up in court, even if it's to be disposed of.'

'There's no such thing as a charge expiring, put it that way. The DPP has already decided that he should face the courts. It's now in the hands of the gardai,' the source explained.

Mr Culleton called RTE's Live-line programme last week to share how he claimed he was being treated at a facility in El Paso, Texas and likened his detention to a 'modern-day concentration camp'.

The Irishman pleaded with the Government to help him get out of the detention and said the conditions amounted to 'torture'.

He called for Taoiseach Micheál Martin to raise his case with US president Donald Trump during his St Patrick's Day visit to the White House.

He said: 'I'd love for you guys to just try to get me out here. Do all you can please.'

'It's absolute torture, psychological torture, physical torture.'

'I just want to get back to my wife. We were so desperate to start a family.'

garreth.macnamee@dailymail.ie

issued a statement which explained the reasons it could not give more details about Mr Culleton's alleged involvement in their callouts.

Other documents seen by the Mail showed Mr Culleton's ex-wife had checked a box asking the court to 'prohibit defendant from imposing any restraint on

plaintiff's personal liberty'.

While such procedures are commonly known as 'restraining orders' in Massachusetts, this is 'somewhat standard' in Boston divorces according to US legal experts, and does not mean there was any sort of abuse involved.

It is often standard protective language built into divorce pro-

EXCLUSIVE

By Garreth MacNamee

ICE detainee Séamus Culleton was accused of calling his black ex-wife 'n****r scum' and threatened to kill her, US police documents obtained by the Irish Daily Mail have shown.

The 38-year-old, originally from Co. Kilkenny, is expected to be deported back to Ireland in the coming days.

It had been claimed by his American lawyer, Ogor Winnie Okoye, that Mr Culleton had no criminal history in the US and 'not even a parking ticket'.

However, we revealed earlier this month how Boston Police Department (BPD) responded to two 'domestic incidents' involving Mr Culleton and his ex-wife prior to their divorce.

The couple separated in late 2018, and the ex-wife moved out of their apartment to live in her parents' house in Dorchester.

The woman, who we have decided not to name, filed for a protective order on November 14 2019, and it was granted.

However, Boston police reports showed that she called police the next day (November 15, 2019) complaining that Mr Culleton was violating the protective order

'Said she had restraining order'

by calling and threatening her, and 'wishing death on her' and saying he was going to get her and her friend fired from their jobs. Police wrote this report up as two offences – criminal harassment' and 'threats to do bodily harm'. It read: 'She stated to the officer that Culleton stated that he "wished death on her" and that he was going to get her fired and [her friend] fired.

'[She] explained that her colleague was a friend who Culleton did not like and that he would try to get him fired from his job.

'The officer advised [the now ex-wife] that since there is no knowledge yet if Culleton had been served with his copy of the restraining order, the officer would write a threat report for her for this incident.'

On January 1, 2020, his ex-wife called police again because she got a text from an unknown number calling her 'n****r scum'. Two days earlier, her father had received a text from Mr Culleton asking to contact her.

She told police she believed the

Culleton used a racist slur against his black ex-wife, Boston police records show

She suspected him of sending her horrible text and threats

'n****r scum' text also came from Mr Culleton. Police wrote the incident up as two separate reported violations of a restraining order: the December 30 text to the woman's father asking to contact her as the first alleged offence, and the January 1 'n****r scum' text as the second offence.

As to this second alleged offence, the last page of the report reads 'Suspected Hate Crime'. Mr Culleton is listed as the suspect.

A BPD report, seen by this publication, states: 'About 9:39am, Wednesday 01/01/20, Officer O'Brien in the C411D responded to a radio call for a violation of a restraining order report at 11 Merlin St. Dorchester.

'Upon arrival the officer spoke with the victim... She stated she currently has an active Restraining Order against her husband/suspect Séamus Culleton.

'[She] stated that on the date

of this report at 6:55am she received a text message from [redacted]. She stated that she is unfamiliar with this number but believes it to be that of her husband. The text message contained a racial epithet referring to the victim as "n****r scum".

'The victim's father stated he also received a text message from the suspect on 30/12/19 at 10:45am. In the context of the message, the suspect asked [ex's father] if he could get in contact with his daughter. The text was from [number redacted] which is the known phone number of the suspect. The officer advised both victims of their rights.'

We revealed earlier this month that not only did Mr Culleton 'abandon' his twin daughters in Kilkenny, he was also facing several drug charges in Ireland before he left for the US.

He was charged in 2008 with several offences – including pos-

session of drugs with intent for sale or supply, possession of drugs for personal consumption and obstructing a guard in the course of their duty.

He failed to appear at New Ross District Court for his hearing and a bench warrant was requested.

However, it was never issued as

Charges against him still 'active'

he had left the jurisdiction.

He also appeared in the same court in April 2008 for being 'extremely drunk' in public, court reports from the time state. He left for the US in 2009.

It has also been confirmed that the charges against Mr Culleton are still 'active' and that it will be at the discretion of gardaí if he is to appear in court if and when he

returns to Ireland. Mr Culleton, originally from Glenmore in Co. Kilkenny, recently told of the 'nasty' conditions he is faced with at the facility where he is detained in El Paso, Texas, which he equated to a 'modern-day concentration camp'.

He was lifted by ICE agents in September on his way home from work in Boston, where he runs a plastering business. He is currently married to US citizen Tiffany Smyth. Mr Culleton's attorney said any update regarding his case would be posted on their website. There was no update by time of publication.

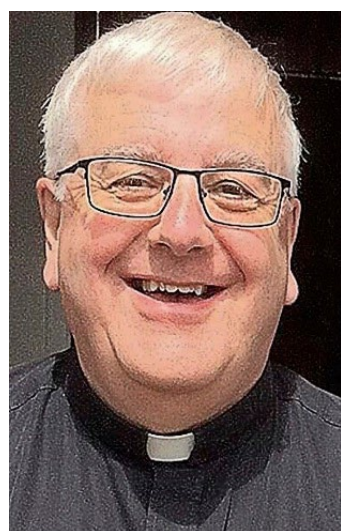
The Irish Daily Mail contacted Mr Culleton's lawyer for a comment on the Boston police reports which mentioned him and his now ex-wife.

The US Department of Homeland Security and ICE were also contacted for comment.

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Facing US deportation: Kilkenny native Séamus Culleton



'A place of quiet reflection': Bishop Paul Connell

By Helen Bruce

THE Catholic hierarchy says it has no problem with remains of the recently deceased reposing overnight in churches – as long as they are in closed coffins.

The Church's communications office issued a clarification after a bishop said that wakes, with open coffins, were not permitted. The statement said it had 'no difficulty whatsoever with the remains reposing overnight (with a closed coffin) in the church'.

Earlier in the week, Bishop Paul Connell, Bishop of Ardagh and Clonmacnoise, wrote to funeral directors stating that the reposing of remains would not be allowed in any church in the dio-

You can have a wake in our church... with a closed coffin

cese. He noted: 'A church is designed for public worship and quiet prayer and reflection.'

Bishop Connell said he believed the demand for reposing in churches has come about 'not just because there is a lack of venue available but also because of the perceived high cost of the use of a funeral home'.

This comes as a survey revealed that nine in ten adults in Ireland believe that families should have the right to deliver a eulogy

about their loved one in a church at the funeral Mass. However, both they – and priests – said eulogies should be kept short and sweet. When asked how long the eulogy should be, 45% of people opted for between six to ten minutes while 41% said less than five minutes. Their views have been recorded in a survey of almost 3,400 people by RIP.ie.

The issue of eulogies is a controversial one for Catholics in many parts of the country, as

several dioceses do not allow them. Fr Aquinas Duffy, a parish priest in Co. Wicklow, said: 'I like when someone tells the story of a person, and I feel it is important to give them that opportunity. They would often ask me how long they should speak for, and I always say three to five minutes max.'

Fr Patsy Lynch, in Co. Kerry, was also a supporter of 'short and simple' eulogies from just one person.

Irishman held by ICE agents in US faced drugs charges here before he left

EXCLUSIVE

By Garreth MacNamee

THE Irishman held in the US by Donald Trump's ICE agents who likened his detention to a 'modern-day concentration camp' had left Ireland while facing drugs charges, the Irish Daily Mail can reveal.

Séamus Culleton, 38, made worldwide headlines this week after he described the 'hell-hole' conditions in which he was being held for almost five months with 70 other detainees.

Originally from Glenmore in Co. Kilkenny, he has been locked up in a facility in El Paso, Texas, since he was detained by Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) last September for overstaying his 90-day visa. He

'Do all you can, please'

arrived in the US in 2009.

Mr Culleton was arrested while on his way home from work in Boston, where he lives with his wife, Tiffany, who is a US citizen. He runs his own plastering business.

The Mail has now confirmed that Mr Culleton was charged in 2008 with several offences in Ireland before emigrating. The charges were possession of drugs with intent for sale or supply, possession of drugs for personal consumption and obstructing a garda in the course of their duty, several sources said.

Mr Culleton failed to appear at New Ross District Court in Co. Wexford for his hearing and a bench warrant was requested.

However, it was never issued as he had left the jurisdiction.

He also appeared in the same court in April 2008 for being 'extremely drunk' in public and

Plasterer detained in Texas 'hell-hole' failed to appear in court before flying out in 2009



'Torture': The ICE facility in El Paso where Mr Culleton is being held

gardai detained him for his own safety, court reports from the time state.

Speaking to the Mail last night, Mr Culleton's US lawyer Ogor Winnie Okoye said that she only became aware of the charges against him yesterday. She said: 'It's a warrant that was issued after he came to the United States. I cannot speak further without knowing the details of the case. A warrant does not equal a criminal conviction.'

'Today is the first time that I'm aware of anything like that... I can't speak more on something that I don't know about... I have not spoken to him since this broke today.'

Mr Culleton has pleaded with the Irish Government to help him get out of the detention.

He said earlier this week: 'I'd love for you guys to just try to get me out of here. Do all you can, please. It's absolute torture, psy-

chological torture, physical torture. I just want to get back to my wife. We were so desperate to start a family. My mother, especially, is heartbroken that I'm in here. She's just heartbroken over the whole situation. I don't want her health to get any worse. She's constantly worrying and stressing about me. It's not fair on her.'

Despite refusing to sign deportation documentation, and posting a \$4,000 bond, Mr Culleton has remained at the detention centre for almost five months.

Court newspaper clippings pointing to a potential link between Mr Culleton and his brushes with the law before emigrating to the US were first posted on the social media site X by anonymous political insider Tull McAdoo. The Mail has since confirmed those links.

In an interview with Sky News, Mr Culleton said he has been 'living a normal life'. 'Just working

hard, staying out of trouble, I wasn't a big party guy, just spending time with my wife and my dogs,' he said.

Taoiseach Micheál Martin told the Dáil on Tuesday that up to six more Irish citizens are in detention at ICE facilities. Speaking about Mr Culleton's

'Inhumane conditions'

case in Dublin on Tuesday, the Taoiseach said: 'We will see what more, with the Minister for Foreign Affairs, we can do in terms of our communication with the administration.'

'I fully empathise with the position he is in, he has been in the United States quite a long time, he's married there. I'm not clear on the full background to it but

certainly we would like to see him out of that facility.'

Foreign Affairs Minister Helen McEntee said Mr Culleton's situation is 'really distressing' and stressed that her officials are working to support his family. Engagement has been launched between the Irish embassy in Washington DC and the US Department of Homeland Security in respect of his case this week.

Fianna Fáil MEP Billy Kelleher spoke at the European Parliament yesterday regarding the case. He said that Mr Culleton is 'being detained in inhumane conditions by ICE in Texas'.

'Current US immigration enforcement is akin to how citizens were treated in former Soviet dictatorships.'

'President Trump is using immigration as a political weapon', he said.

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Locked up: Irishman Séamus Culleton with wife Tiffany

Gardaí won't work overtime for St Patrick's Day

OVER 11,000 rank-and-file gardaí have decided to withdraw voluntary overtime around St Patrick's Day over an ongoing row on pay and conditions.

The Garda Representative Association (GRA) yesterday held a Special Delegates Conference in Co. Kilkenny, where they passed the motion.

The move raises concerns ahead of large-scale gatherings and parades, with fears that stretched resources could leave communities exposed. A significant

By Garreth MacNamee

number of officers deployed on the streets during festivals and major public events typically work overtime to bolster local units.

However, with gardaí now declining to take on that extra cover, senior sources warn that policing levels at high-profile occasions could be severely impacted.

The motion that was passed reads in full: 'As a result of the bad faith in govern-

ment departments (DPER) in negotiating with the GRA, the association is going to take full action on the EU Presidency where nothing will be off the table. The following action will take place: No voluntary overtime will be undertaken on March 16, 17 and 18, 2026.'

Ireland will hold the EU Presidency from July to the end of the year and will host numerous events involving heads of states and other dignitaries.

Following the meeting, GRA president

Mark O'Meara said: 'It is unfortunate that we, as gardaí, have to resort to fighting for basic rights and entitlements that have long been promised and been previously agreed. The ball is now firmly in the court of Ministers [Jim] O'Callaghan and [Jack] Chambers.'

In 2023, gardaí previously went on work-to-rule as they declined voluntary overtime.

That row was over the implementation of rosters.