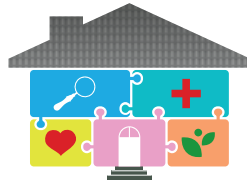


BARNAHUS

A GUIDE FOR CAREGIVERS

BARNAHUS

An interagency model, working towards better outcomes for children.



What happens at Barnahus...

At Barnahus, we know that any form of sexual abuse can affect children, young people, and their families in different kinds of ways. At Barnahus, we want to make sure that children and young people receive the right help and support by coordinating and providing all the services needed. We bring together Tusla, the HSE, and the Garda Síochána, the agencies responsible for child protection. These agencies will meet as an experienced team to discuss your child's needs and share information to make sure your child is receiving the services and support, they may need. You will always be informed throughout your journey, and we will be here to help. **As a parent, or carer, we know the importance of your role in supporting your child, and our team will work with you to always guide you and your family.**

Collecting evidence...

When your child feels ready to speak about what has happened, they can meet with specially trained interviewers. These interviewers are social workers and Gardaí who work together in pairs. Specialist interviewers are highly trained to gather the best evidence when speaking with your child. The evidence your child may give will be recorded and can be used in court.



The interviewers will meet with you and your child before their interview. Interviews go at your child's pace, and they can choose to stop at any point. **Barnahus aims to prevent or minimise re-traumatisation by limiting the number of times your child is interviewed.**

Medical support...

Not all children who come to Barnahus will require a medical assessment, but an assessment may be helpful for the purposes of wellbeing, investigation, and recovery. Forensic examination can provide very important physical evidence to the court. The benefits of an examination and follow up appointments will be discussed with you, and you can decide, with the help of health care professionals whether to proceed.



Supportive, specially trained doctors and nurses carry out these child friendly medical examinations when it is agreed to be in the child's best interest.

Safe and well cared for...

Tusla's job is to work with children, young people, and families to make sure they are safe and well cared for. Tusla social workers work with families when someone raises a concern about the welfare, or safety of a child or when there are concerns a child has been abused or neglected.



It is important that children, young people, and families have an opportunity to talk about their worries and what they would like to see happen to keep their child safe. **After speaking with you, your child and the important people in your life, a social worker will come up with a plan to keep your child and other children safe.**

Emotional wellbeing...

At Barnahus, you can speak with our therapists who specialise in supporting children, young people who may have experienced sexual abuse, and their protective caregivers.

We know you have an important role in helping your child. We will support you by providing advice about looking after you and your child's emotional wellbeing.

If your child has emotional needs, our therapist will get to know them, will listen to them, and help them with any questions they have.

After spending time with our therapist, we will talk with you about what your child may require next.

At Barnahus, we can offer short-term support to you and your child, or, decide with you, what is most suitable for your child. This may be a referral to another support service.

If you or your child need an interpreter or signer, we will invite a suitable person to be with you.



Frequently Asked Questions...

Q. How can my child access Barnahus?

- A. If you have concerns that your child has been sexually abused, Irish law requires that your concern is reported to Tusla. Following this, your Tusla Worker may refer your child to Barnahus, with your agreement.

Q. I am not sure if I want my child to attend Barnahus. Can I find out more?

- A. Yes. You can contact us to discuss. See contact details at the end of the leaflet.

If you decide, you do not want your child referred to Barnahus, Tusla and An Garda Síochána will continue to work together, and medical care can still be accessed through the HSE/ SATU.

Q. How can we avail of this service when we live so far away?

- A. If the distance is too far to travel, we can work with you and identify services in your locality for you and your child. We can also explore if online support would work for you and your child.

Q. What happens if my child cannot access therapy at Barnahus?

- A. You will be provided with a full explanation of the reason, and we can talk through our recommendations and the next steps.

Q. Can I refuse one part of the service and not the others?

- A. Yes, it is your decision what services you choose to avail of at Barnahus.

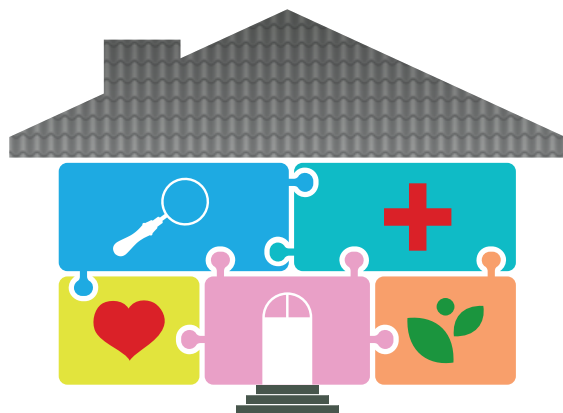
Q. What other information will Barnahus need?

- A. Your child may have been involved with other supports and services. It would be helpful if you could tell us about any assessments or reports relating to your child.

Q. How will my child's personal information be managed?

A. Your personal data will be processed in compliance with all relevant data protection legislation and other legal requirements to which Tusla is obliged to adhere to. Full details of Tusla's Privacy Policy setting out how we will use your personal data as well as information regarding your right as a data subject are available at www.barnahus.ie.





- We have a website www.barnahus.ie if you would like to find out more.
- We would like to know what you think of Barnahus.
- You can fill out a feedback form, or you and your caregiver can let us know at tellus@tusla.ie

CONTACT US

Barnahus South: 021 4923302

Barnahus West: 087 4638779

