

Child

TÚSLA

An Ghníomhaireacht um
Leanaí agus an Teaghlach
Child and Family Agency

Child Abuse Substantiation Procedure (CASP)

A leaflet for a child who
tells us that they have
been abused

In this leaflet we explain to you what happens when you tell someone – for example, your teacher, therapist or us (Tusla) – that someone has abused you. This is called ‘making a disclosure of child abuse’.

This leaflet will also tell you:

- About us – Tusla – The Child and Family Agency
- How Tusla assess disclosures (CASP)
- Where you can get support

We understand that making a disclosure of child abuse can be a very difficult and upsetting thing for you to do. We have written this leaflet to help you understand what we do and what you can expect when you make a disclosure.

Ask us for help with words or any questions you may have

We have tried to make this leaflet easy to understand but it still may be confusing as there are a lot of words and terms that may be new to you.

About us – Tusla – Child and Family Agency

Tusla is the Child and Family Agency in Ireland. Our job is to work with children, young people and their families to make sure they are safe from harm. Our social workers work with children and young people and their families when there is a worry that a child or a young person has been harmed or may be unsafe. Our social worker’s job is to talk to you and the people that know you so that they can find out what has happened.

How we assess disclosures – Child Abuse Substantiation Procedure (CASP)

The CASP is what we use to assess disclosures of child abuse and it helps us to keep children safe. It also helps us to find out if we need to tell other people about so we can keep these children safe.

How can one of our social workers help?

The social worker working with you can:

- Help keep you safe
- Listen and talk to you in a private, comfortable place
- Give you information that you understand
- Only share your information with others when they must do so
- Treat you and your family with respect.



What happens when there is a worry that you are not safe?

If there is a worry that you or another child is not safe, you can contact us to disclose child abuse or an adult can contact us to disclose child abuse.

For example, you may have told an adult like a parent, guardian or teacher that you have been abused. The adults can then contact us (Tusla) about your disclosure.

If there is a worry about your safety, our CASP social worker may need to meet you and other people in your life like:

- Your brothers or sisters

- Your mum and dad

- Other family members

- People that might know you.

When we meet you and other people about you, this is called an assessment. You do not have to meet our CASP social worker if you don't want to. It is up to you and your parents to decide. If you decide to meet our CASP social worker, you will always be able to bring an adult you trust with you to the meeting.

Keeping children safe and telling other people

Our CASP social workers may need to tell other people about you to make sure you are safe. Please know that we will give other people only the information needed to keep you and other children safe. Other people may include:

- Parents

- Family members

- Employers

- Community organisations.

Supports to help you

Being involved in an assessment can be very upsetting. Remember, children's safety is our job. This includes keeping you safe.

There are lots of supports services available for you and we can help you to make sure that you get the support that you need. We list some supports that can help below. Our CASP social worker will speak with you about what supports are available for you.

Contact details for some supports

CARI

CARI is an organisation providing special support to people affected by abuse.

T: 0818 924567 (01 830 8529)

E: hello@cari.ie

www.cari.ie

Rape Crisis Centre National 24 Hour Helpline

T: 1800 778 888

It is important to us that we do a good job and help you and your family to keep you safe. If we are doing a good job, please tell us or if you think we can do better talk to your social worker or even their boss – who is called a ‘team leader’. Here are their numbers. You can ask an adult to help you.

Social Worker

Name:

Phone number:

Team Leader

Name:

Phone number:

Tusla feedback and complaints procedure

If you wish to give feedback or make a complaint you can contact:

E: tellus@tusla.ie

P: 01 771 8500 (Call 9am to 5pm Monday to Friday)

<https://portal.tusla.ie/feedback>

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