



Guidance for Interim Special Measures regarding Child Protection Conferences

Ref: CMT-AD-17-2020

Date: 01st April 2020

Version: 1.0

Approved: COVID19 Crisis Management Team

In any consideration of contact with clients and/or colleagues, please refer to the most recent guidance from Tusla and the Health Service Executive.

This interim guidance is in addition to the National Guidance for CPC's and CPNS 2018 and replaces the guidance issued previously by the CMT on the 20th March 2020. This guidance is updated following the implementation of these special measures and to provide consistency in the variety of situations that arise in the 17 areas.

Review Child Protection Conferences:

For each review, a discussion will take place between the SWTL, PSW and CPC Chairperson where the safety plan will be evaluated.

- If the current plan is providing safety for the child, the CPC may be deferred for a maximum of 3 months. The Child Protection Safety Plan will be circulated to each invitee along with correspondence to advise that the current plan is to continue until such time as it is reasonable and possible to hold a meeting to formally review. The child's name will continue to be active on the CPNS.
- If the Social Worker and Social Work Team Leader are recommending de-activation of the child's name on the CPNS, information can be gathered from the relevant professionals to support the recommendation as per the procedure below and Section 2.9 of the National Guidance 2018.
- If the current plan is not providing adequate safety and the child is deemed to be at risk, the procedure for a CPC below will be followed.

Child Protection Conferences:

The Standard Business Processes are to be followed as normal, and if it is the assessment of the Social Worker that a child is at ongoing risk of significant harm, a CPC is to be requested.

- The Social Worker will write a report, which he/she will talk through with the family by telephone and record the response. The Social Work Team Leader will sign off on the report at this stage. The Social Worker will then submit the report and the family's response to the CPC Chairperson.
- The Secretary to the CPC will circulate the Social Work Report to all invitees along with a template consistent with the Signs of Safety approach to practice for invitees to complete and return within a specified time period. A separate template will be completed for each child in the family.
- The CPC Chairperson will contact the family (and young person, if applicable) to explain the special measures, to ask if they would like to complete the template in writing and if not to discuss the purpose and format of the CPC and take their feedback.
- The CPC Chairperson will collate all of the information into a mapping document using the three columns. This document will be circulated by the Secretary to the CPC to the Social Worker, Social Work Team Leader and Principal Social Worker responsible for the service.
- The parents will be offered the opportunity to read or review the collated information in the mapping document and to respond.
- A meeting or teleconference will be scheduled within 2 days of the circulation of this document. The meeting will include the Social Worker, Social Work Team Leader as well as the CPC Chairperson and Secretary to the CPC. The parents and their network or representative of the network will be offered the opportunity to participate in the meeting or by telephone or teleconference as well as participants from external agencies. Young people may also be offered the opportunity to participate by telephone.
- A decision as to whether or not the child's name should be active on the CPNS will be made and the reasons, including safety, strengths, risk and harm to the child, will be recorded. In the event that the decision is for the child's name to be active on the CPNS, a child protection safety plan will be developed by all present and recorded by the Secretary to the CPC.
- The minutes of the meeting (Child Protection Safety Plan and CPNS decision) will be circulated to all invitees.
- In the event that feedback is not received from other agencies and the quorum is not met then Section 2.1.9 of the National Guidance for CPC and CPNS shall apply and the Chairperson shall exercise their judgement in this context. A quorum of Tusla staff led by the CPC Chairperson and including the Social Worker, Social Work Team Leader and another Principal Social Worker may make a decision and an immediate child protection safety plan.

Child(ren)'s Name(s):	Child(ren)'s DOB:	Name and address of person completing the form:
What are you worried about?	What is working well?	What needs to happen?

