

TÚSLA

An Ghníomhaireacht um
Leanaí agus an Teaghlach
Child and Family Agency

Child Protection Conference

Information Leaflet for Young People



Why Have you Given Me this Leaflet?

We have given you this leaflet because we are worried about your safety, and we are going to hold a meeting to talk about these worries with you and your family. This leaflet helps you understand what happens next.

What is a Child Protection Conference?

A Child Protection Conference is a meeting (known after this as a CPC) held when there are serious worries about your safety or the safety of a member of your family.

Can I Go to the Meeting?

Yes, if your parents agree, and you are over 12 years old you can go for all or part of the meeting. If you go, the Chairperson will allow you time to tell us your views (we explain more about this on page 5).

This leaflet is to help you understand what happens next

What Will Happen at the Meeting?

At the meeting, people who work with your family will be asked if they are really worried you could be at serious harm. If the answer to this is 'yes', then we will add your name to the Child Protection Notification System, (known after this as the CPNS). This is a list we keep of children and young people who are at risk of serious harm at home.

At the meeting, we will make a plan to help to make you safer.

Can I Bring Someone with Me?

Yes, you can bring a support person or a trusted adult friend with you if you wish. Your Social Worker will talk to you about this.

If you or your parents need an interpreter or signer, your Social Worker will invite a suitable person.

Who Else will be at the Meeting?

- Your Parents or Carers
- Any children who are over 12 years of age can come to some or all of the CPC
- People who are important to you and your parents, and who can help to keep you safe - we call this group the 'Safety Network'
- A support person just for you
- A support person for your Parents or Carers
- A professional person or people working with you now or in the past like a Teacher or a Counselor
- A note-taker
- A Tusla Social Worker and their Manager
- CPC Chairperson



Who Will Be in Charge of the Meeting?

A CPC Chairperson will be in charge of the meeting. The Chairperson will talk to you before the meeting and answer any questions you have. They will explain how the meeting will run and will help you decide how to give your views at the meeting.

How Long Will it Last?

It is likely to last for about one and a half hours, and possibly longer.

What Does the Meeting Hope to Do?

The point of the meeting is to make sure to discuss all the important things about your safety. Everyone at the meeting will be able to give their view.

What Does the Chairperson Do?

The Chairperson will make sure that your views are heard. They will also help everyone to look at:

- What the worries are
- What is working well for your family
- What needs to happen to make sure that you are safe

The professional people attending the conference will decide if you are at on-going risk of significant harm. If they think that you are, then, we will add your name to the Child Protection Notification System (CPNS).

At the Conference, we will ask for ideas and solutions about how to solve the risk of harm. If a plan is needed, we will use this feedback to help us build a Child Protection Conference (CPC) Safety Plan.

What Happens Next?

Your Social Worker together with you, your family, and your Safety Network, will work together at the conference and in network meetings after the conference to agree in more detail what everyone will do to make sure you are always safe.

This plan is called a Child Protection Safety Plan. After it is written, everyone will meet regularly to see how the plan is working.

Within 6 months of this meeting, there will be another conference, to see if:

- You still need a CPC Safety Plan as children are moved off the CPNS when the threshold of ongoing risk of significant harm is reached but often have an ongoing Safety Plan.
- You are safe enough to close the Child Protection Conference

If you are now safe, your name will no longer be 'active' on the CPNS list. We may still continue to work with you, your family and Safety Network to see what still needs to happen before your case can close to Tusla. On your 18th birthday, your record will be deleted from the CPNS.



Feedback

The Chairperson may ask you what you thought about the CPC. It is really helpful if we know what:

- Helped you take part as much as you wanted in the CPC
- Was unhelpful

We welcome your ideas about how Tusla could make the CPC better for young people and parents. We will use this feedback to improve these meetings in the future.

Confidentiality

We think it is really important to keep information about you private and only share it with people who will help with the safety plan.

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. 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 in the About Us (Freedom of Information, Data Protection and Administrative Access) section of www.tusla.ie



