

TÚSLA

An Ghníomhaireacht um
Leanaí agus an Teaghlach
Child and Family Agency

**Children First Information
and Advice Service**

Child Safeguarding Resource List

18 January 2024

The [Children First: National Guidance](#) recommends that all organisations which work with children and families should have specific policies and procedures in place to help safeguard children from harm. These should include procedures for:

- Dealing with child protection concerns,
- Reporting child protection concerns,
- Working safely with children,
- Recruiting and managing staff,
- providing child safeguarding information and training,
- Involving parents and children, and
- Implementing and reviewing their safeguarding strategies.

The [Children First Act 2015](#) places specific obligations on organisations which are providers of relevant services to children and young people, to:

- Keep children **safe from harm** while they are using their service;
- Carry out a **risk assessment** to identify circumstances where a child or young person could be harmed while receiving the services;
- Develop a **Child Safeguarding Statement** that, among other things, outlines the policies and procedures which are in place to manage the risks that have been identified; and
- Appoint a **relevant person** to be the first point of contact in respect of the organisation's Child Safeguarding Statement.

Additionally, **providers of relevant services** must have procedures in place, to:

- Manage allegations of child abuse made against workers;
- Recruit and select staff who are suitable to work with children;
- Provide information and training to staff on child protection and safeguarding issues (identification of harm);
- Report child protection or welfare concerns to Tusla;
- Maintain a list of mandated persons (see Schedule 2 of the Children First Act); and
- Appoint a relevant person to be the first point contact about its child safeguarding statement.

The Act also makes reference to the personal responsibilities of mandated persons, that is, people whose role or job is included in Schedule 2 of the Act.

The following resources should help you to meet your child safeguarding responsibilities.

Legislation and Policy

- [Children First: National Guidance for the Protection and Welfare of Children](#)

- [Addendum to Children First: National Guidance for the Protection and Welfare of Children - Online Safety](#)
- [The Children First Act 2015](#)

Guidance and information resources

- General [Children First information and resources](#) are available on this webpage, including
 - [Tusla - Child Safeguarding: A Guide for Policy, Procedure and Practice \(2nd ed\)](#) (document download)
 - [Guide for the Reporting of Child Protection and Welfare Concerns](#) (document download)
 - [Best Practice Principles for Organisations in Developing Children First Training Programmes](#) (document download)
 - [Guidance on Developing a Child Safeguarding Statement](#) (document download)
 - [Self-Assessment Tool](#) (document download) to help you review your child safeguarding procedures
 - [Information for Mandated Persons](#) (document download) leaflet
 - [Child Safeguarding Training – What you need to know](#) (document download) provides information on types of training, and a training needs analysis template and training strategy template¹.
- Information on [child safeguarding responsibilities of organisations](#) working with children and families is available on the Tusla website.

Useful contacts

- If you are worried about a child please contact the [Tusla Social Work Department](#) for the area where the child lives.
- Contact details for the Tusla [Children First Information and Advice Service](#) are available on the Tusla website.
- You can find information and contact details for Tusla's [Child Safeguarding Statement Compliance Unit](#) on the Tusla website.

Training and learning opportunities

On-line training and learning

- Tusla universal eLearning programme, '[An Introduction to Children First](#)'
- Children First [Mandated Person Roles and Responsibilities](#), eLearning module
- [Designated Liaison Person](#) eLearning module

¹ This document updates and replaces the information in Appendix 9 of Tusla's Child Safeguarding: A Guide for Policy, Procedure and Practice (2nd Ed.).

- [‘Signs of Safety: Tusla’s National Approach to Practice’](#) eLearning briefing programme

Facilitated training and learning (priority given to Tusla funded and partner agencies):

- Tusla Always Children First, Foundation Training is delivered as a six-hour, classroom-based programme. Contact your local [Children First Information and Advice Officer](#) for details.
- Tusla Always Children First, Designated Liaison Person Training, for Tusla funded and partner agencies, is delivered as a blended training programme. Part A is [the DLP eLearning module](#), Part B is a 3.5 hour classroom based workshop. Contact your local [Children First Information and Advice Officer](#) for further details.

Explainer videos

(Short videos: 2-7 minutes in duration)

The following links will bring you the Tusla website pages where each video is hosted.

- [What to do if you are worried about a child](#), for anyone who is concerned about the safety or welfare of a child.
- [Understanding the Tusla Post Referral Process](#) explains what happens after a report is made to Tusla.
- [Definition of child safeguarding](#)
- [What is a Child Safeguarding Statement](#) is explained in this short video.
- A short video on [understanding risk assessments in child safeguarding statements](#) gives more information on risk assessments.
- The [National Framework for Children and Young People’s Participation](#) is explained in this short video.
- [Understanding the role of mandated persons.](#)
- [An introduction to children first eLearning](#) (2 min)
- [Safeguarding Best Practice Procedures for all Organisations](#) provides an overview of some of the core child safeguarding policies and procedures your organisation should have in place.

The logo for TUSLA, featuring the word "TUSLA" in a bold, white, sans-serif font. The letter "U" is stylized with a small circle above it, resembling a drop or a child's head. The background of the entire page is a vibrant teal color with large, overlapping, semi-circular shapes in shades of light green and yellow-green, creating a dynamic, organic feel.

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