

We believe that you should be a part of any plans or decisions that affect your life. You will be given a copy of your story and the plan to help keep you safe.

How can my social worker help me?

Your social worker is here to support you and help keep you safe. They will:

- listen and talk to you in a private, comfortable place;
- help you to think about the good and bad things in your life and about your future;
- give you information that you understand;
- only share information with others when they have to;
- treat you and your family with respect.

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 just 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 do this.

Social Worker's Name & Tel No:

Team Leader's Name & Tel No:

If they are not able to help you and you are worried about something you can also get help by contacting us:

Email: tellus@tusla.ie

Phone **01 7718500** (Call 9am to 5pm Monday - Friday)

Text **086 014 2775**.

TUSLA

An Ghníomhaireacht um
Leanaí agus an Teaghlach
Child and Family Agency

Information for Children about Social Work



Who are we and what do we do?

Tusla is the Child and Family Agency in Ireland and our job is to work with children and families to make sure they are safe and well cared for.

Social workers at Tusla work with children and their families when there is a worry a child has been hurt, is not being looked after or does not feel safe.

The social worker's job is to talk to you and the people that know and love you so that they can find out what has happened.

Your social worker wants to help change the situation, and make things get better at home. You can help them learn who they need to talk to and who helps you feel safe.

How will my social worker help me?

All children should feel happy and safe in their families. Unfortunately, this doesn't always happen. Sometimes mums or dads or other people looking after children do or say things that might hurt or sometimes scare kids.

Your social worker wants to meet with you so that they can hear about what your life is like to help make things better.

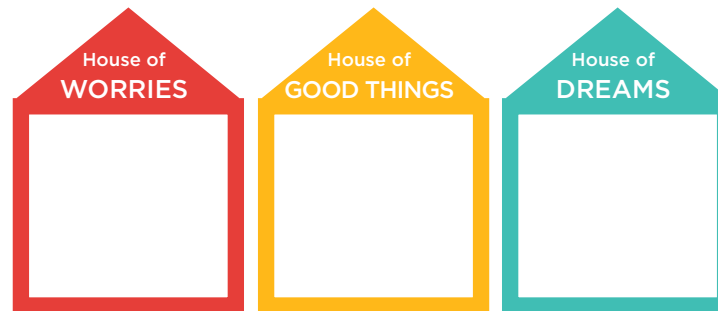
To learn about the situation your social worker will talk to you, the people who look after you every day and the people in your family who know and love you. They will also talk to people like your teacher or other people you see all the time.

What questions will my social worker ask me?

Your social worker will ask you questions about you and your family. Your social worker wants to find out about:

- the good things in your life;
- the things you worry about;
- the things you want to see get better;
- what you want most; and
- who needs to hear about the good times and your worries.

Your social worker will help you talk about your thoughts and feelings using a tool called **My Three Houses**.



What happens after my social worker has talked to everyone?

When they have talked to everyone, they will ask your mum or dad to write you a story. The story will help you understand who is worried about you and what they are worried about. Together, we will also come up with a safety plan that will show everyone how to keep you safe.

What will this plan be like?

The plan might look like a Safety House which tells everyone what life is like in your home:

- who should live there;
- who are the people that should come visit; and
- who are the people you don't think are safe.

The safety house might also have rules that help everyone understand how to keep you safe and who will help do this.

