

Safety Network

An important part of the safety goal is to find a safety network. A safety network is made up of the people in your life that are important to you. It includes grandparents, aunts, uncles and close friends who could help look out for you when you need them.

Safety Plan

If needed, your social worker, together with you, your family, and your safety network will write a safety plan. A safety plan describes what everyone will do to make sure you are always safe.

When the safety plan is written, everyone will meet regularly to see how the plan is progressing. When everyone is happy that we have reached the safety goals, we can close the case.

How can my social worker help me?

- Help keep you safe;
- 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; and
- Treat you and your family with respect.

How do I contact Tusla?

It is important to us that we do a good job and help you and your family keep you safe. If we are doing a good job please tell your social worker.

If you think we can do better, just talk to your social worker or their boss - who is called a team leader. Their numbers are below.

Social Worker's Name & Tel No:

Team Manager's Name & Tel No:

If they are not able to help you, you can talk to the Tusla Feedback and Complaints team:
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 Young
People about
Social Work

signs
OF
safety®

Who are Tusla and what do we do?

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

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, may not be safe or is not being well cared for.

How will my social worker help me?

If there is a worry about your safety or wellbeing, your social worker will need to get a picture of what life is like for you and your family. To do this they will need to **speak to you** and to all the important people in your life, such as:

- your brothers or sisters;
- your mum and dad;
- other family members; and
- people that might know you and your family well, like teachers, doctors and public health nurses.

What will my social worker do for me?

At Tusla we think that talking to children and young people is really important. We want to listen to you and hear about your worries, what makes you happy and what you would like to see happen in your family to keep you safe.

Your social worker wants to meet with you so that they can have a conversation about all the good and bad things in your life. This will help them keep you safe and to make sure you have a say in, decisions and plans.

Tusla has a new way of working with families when someone reports worries about a child or young person. It is called the Signs of Safety.

What is the Signs of Safety approach?

Signs of Safety makes sure **your views** and the views of your mam, dad, carers and extended family (or close family friends) are part of the solution. Signs of Safety involves everyone working together to make a plan to make sure you always feel safe, even when things get tough at home.

What sort of questions will my social worker ask me?

When your social worker talks to you they will ask lots of questions to help you think about different things in your life.

Your social worker wants to learn about:

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

One of the most important questions they will ask will be a **scaling question**, like shown below.

Your social worker will ask you to place yourself on a safety scale 1-10.

0 means that there are times when you don't feel safe and there is no one you can turn to that will help things get better.

10 means that even though things at home can be stressful, you always feel safe and there is always someone you can talk to about your worries.

Danger statement

When your social worker understands all the worries, they will work with your mum and dad to write a danger statement so that everyone can understand all the worries together. A danger statement describes what we are most afraid might happen to you if nothing changes.

Safety Goal

A safety goal describes the things we need to see happen to make sure that you are always safe, particularly when life gets tough.