

**Child**

**TÚSLA**

An Ghníomhaireacht um  
Leanaí agus an Teaghlach  
Child and Family Agency

# **Child Abuse Substantiation Procedure (CASP)**

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**What we do when using  
the CASP when a child  
tells us that they have  
been abused**

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**In this leaflet we explain to you what happens when a child tells someone – for example, a teacher, therapist or us (Tusla) – that someone has abused a child and we are going to use the CASP.**

**This leaflet will also tell you:**


About us  
– Tusla –  
The Child  
and Family  
Agency

How  
Tusla assess  
disclosures  
(CASP)

Where you  
can get  
support

We understand that talking about child abuse can be very difficult and upsetting. We want you to understand what we do and what you can expect from us.





### Ask us for help with words or any questions you may have

We have tried to make this leaflet easy to understand. It may still be confusing as there are a lot of words that may be new to you. We will help explain them.



### About us - Tusla - Child and Family Agency

Tusla is the Child and Family Agency in Ireland. Our job is to work with children, young people and their families to make sure they are safe from harm.

Our social workers work with children and young people and their families. They help when there is a worry that a child or a young person has been harmed or may be unsafe. Our social worker's job is to talk to you and the people that know you so that they can find out what has happened and to help you. This is called an assessment.



## Why we use the CASP

CASP is the short name for Child Abuse Substantiation Procedure. The CASP helps us to keep children safe. It also helps us to find out if we need to tell other people, so we can keep other children safe.

## How can one of our social workers help?

The social worker working with you can:

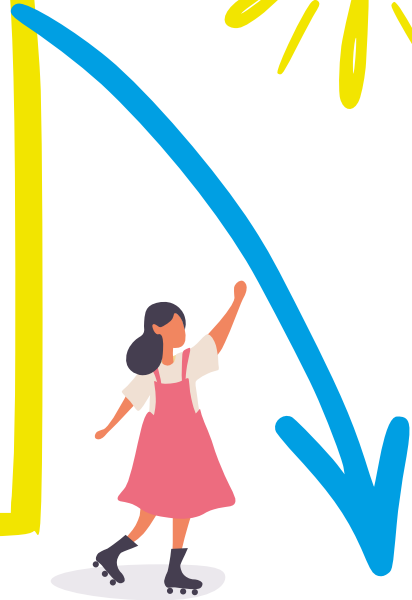
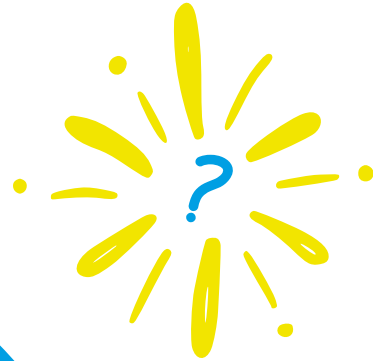
- Help keep you safe
- Listen and talk to you in a private, comfortable place
- Give you information that you understand
- Treat you and your family with respect
- Only share your information with others when they must do so.



## What happens when there is a worry that you are not safe?

If there is a worry that you or another child is not safe, tell us or an adult you trust.

For example, you may have told an adult, like a parent, foster carer or teacher, that you have been abused. The adults can then contact us (Tusla) about this.



If there is a worry about your safety, our CASP social worker may need to meet you and other people in your life like

- Your brothers or sisters,
- Your mum and dad,
- Other family members,
- People that might know you.

When we need to do an assessment, we meet you and other people. It is up to you and your parents or carer to decide if you want to meet a CASP social worker. (CASP stands for Child Abuse Substantiation Procedure.)

As we said above, you can always bring an adult you trust with you to the meeting if you wish.

## Telling other people

Our CASP social worker may need to tell some other people about what you have said to make sure you, or other children, are safe. Please know that we will give other people **only** the information they need to keep you safe.

## Supports to help you

Remember, children's safety is our job. This includes keeping you safe.

There are lots of support services for you. We can tell you about these if you need them.

We also have a cartoon animation that explains CASP if you would like to watch it. You can use this QR code or we can set it up for you.



## Other supports that can help

Contact details for some supports

### CARI

CARI is an organisation providing special support to people affected by abuse.

T: 0818 924567 (01 830 8529)

E: [hello@cari.ie](mailto:hello@cari.ie)

[www.cari.ie](http://www.cari.ie)

### Rape Crisis Centre National 24 - Hour Helpline

T: 1800 778 888

### ISPCC

T: 01 234 2000

E: [info@ispcc.ie](mailto:info@ispcc.ie)

[www.ispcc.ie](http://www.ispcc.ie)

**There are other supports in your area that your social worker can help you find them**

## Tell us how we are doing

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 talk to your social worker or even their boss – who is called a ‘team leader’. See next page for their numbers.



## Social Worker

Name:

Phone number:

## Team Leader

Name:

Phone number:

### Tusla feedback and complaints procedure

If you wish to give feedback or make a complaint you can contact:

**E:** [tellus@tusla.ie](mailto:tellus@tusla.ie)

**T:** 01 771 8500 (Call 9am to 5pm Monday to Friday)

**<https://portal.tusla.ie/feedback>**

We would like to acknowledge the feedback on the leaflets from five groups of young people in the Cavan/Monaghan Area:

- Monaghan Youth Activists
- Foróige Children in Care Group
- CAMRY Cavan
- CAMRY Monaghan
- ISPCC Children in the Community





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