

Data Protection Notice for data sharing between Tusla and An Garda Síochána (AGS)

This notice was last reviewed in February 2026.



Tusla and the AGS are agencies empowered by law to carry out assessments and investigations of suspected child abuse and neglect. Tusla focuses on the assessment of the protection and welfare of the child, whilst AGS focuses on prevention, investigation and detection of criminal offences.

This notice outlines the data sharing between Tusla and the AGS, describing the purpose, types of personal data, and to whom information may be shared with.

Process Name	Personal Data	Purpose*	Information may be shared with
Notification Form from Tusla to AGS	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Identification information including name, gender and date of birth• Location information including address• Contact information• Family, lifestyle and social circumstances information• Health and welfare information• Special category information including race, ethnicity, religion and sexual orientation	<p>Tusla is required to report any criminal offence involving a child to AGS as mandated by the following legislation:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">- Policing, Security and Community Safety Act 2024.- Criminal Justice (Withholding of Information on Offences against Children and Vulnerable Persons) Act 2012 <p>The submission of a Tusla Children First Notification to the AGS can initiate a criminal investigation as indicated below.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• AGS• Legal or court proceedings
Notification Form from AGS to Tusla	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Identification information of the young person including name and surname• Identification of a member of AGS including their pulse ID• Location information including address• Contact information• Family, lifestyle and social circumstances information• Health and welfare information	<p>AGS are required to report any child abuse and/or welfare concerns to Tusla as mandated by the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">- Child Care Act 1991- Children First Act 2015- Children First: National Guidance for the Protection and Welfare of Children, which includes the- Joint Working Protocol between AGS and Tusla. <p>Irish Law allows for the submission of pre-recorded video evidence from a child victim under 18 years and from witnesses under 18 years of age for sexual and human trafficking offences. In some cases, joint specialist interviews take place involving specially trained Tusla staff and Gardaí.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Legal or court proceedings
Case Liaison	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Identification information including name, gender and date of birth• Location information including address• Contact information	<p>In cases where Tusla suspects a possible child protection or welfare concern, a case liaison will be held with AGS to determine if the case warrants notification.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• AGS

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Family, lifestyle and social circumstances information Health and welfare information Special category information including race, ethnicity, religion and sexual orientation 		
Sex Offender Risk Assessment and Management (SORAM)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Identification information including name, gender and date of birth Location information including address Contact information Family, lifestyle and social circumstances information Health and welfare information Special category information including race, ethnicity, religion and sexual orientation Victim details: gender, age, relationship to offender Offence details, sentence details, risk assessment details Probation supervision details Identified child protection concerns Risk level of reconviction 	<p>SORAM is the joint management of sex offenders between An Garda Síochána and the Probation Service. If a child protection issue arises, information may be shared with Tusla in accordance with Children First Guidance.</p> <p>SORAM involves co-operation and co-ordination between key statutory organisations in managing the risks posed to the community by convicted sex offenders and in safeguarding the welfare of children.</p> <p>For further information see Garda- SORAM</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Department of Justice AGS The Probation Service Relevant Tusla Staff The Irish Prison Service Local Authority Housing
Assessment	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Identification information including name, gender and date of birth Location information including address Contact information Family, lifestyle and social circumstances information Health and welfare information Special category information including race, ethnicity, religion and sexual orientation 	<p>An assessment is conducted by Tusla following receipt of a Children First notification to determine whether there has been harm/abuse, and if there is potential for future danger to the child and or any other children. The assessment will explore:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> if there is any existing safety present to address this harm and if those measures are sufficient and present within the family and their network; or whether the child/children require a social work led comprehensive safety planning process in order to develop a safety plan. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Relevant professional service providers Relevant family members Relevant protected individuals Child protection conferences
Child protection conference (CPC)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Identification information including name, gender and date of birth 	<p>A CPC is an interdisciplinary meeting which aims to facilitate the sharing and evaluation of information between professionals and parents/carers. It provides rigorous</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> AGS

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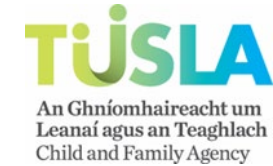
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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Location information including address Contact information Family, lifestyle and social circumstances information Health and welfare information Special category information including race, ethnicity, religion and sexual orientation 	<p>oversight and quality assurance for the creation, implementation and monitoring of effective safety plans for children experiencing ongoing risk of significant harm.</p> <p>Members of the AGS are invited to a CPC where it is identified that their involvement with the child or their family is such that they will be able to contribute to an assessment of risk and needs and the development of a child protection safety plan.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Relevant professional service providers Relevant family members Teachers Relevant individuals from the medical field Relevant members of the community
Child Protection Notification System (CPNS) Register	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Identification information belonging to the child including name date of birth and gender Identification information belonging to the parents Location information of child and parent including address Personal data of the social worker including name and contact details Special category data including ethnicity 	<p>The CPNS, hosted on a secure database, is a national record of all children who have reached the threshold of being at ongoing risk of significant harm and for whom there is an ongoing child protection concern. Access to the CPNS is strictly confined to Tusla social workers, members of the AGS, out-of-hours general practitioners and hospital medical, social work or nursing staff.</p> <p>Under certain circumstances, where a child susceptible to abuse, is going on holiday or moving abroad, personal data may be shared with international agencies.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> AGS – a child's CPNS active listing is captured on the Garda information system, PULSE Relevant Tusla/Agency staff Emergency services (HSE hospitals and on call doctor services) International agencies (where relevant)
Vetting	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Identification information including name, surname, and date of birth Location information including address Contact information including contact number and email address Personal data contained within the document used as proof of identification 	<p>The Garda National Vetting Bureau is responsible for performing vetting as prescribed by the National Vetting Bureau (Children and Vulnerable Persons) Acts 2012 to 2016.</p> <p>The Tusla Central Vetting Bureau is responsible for coordinating the vetting of individuals with the National Vetting Bureau. Individuals such as prospective employees, foster carers, a child's safety network (parents, key professionals involved in the child's life) and students in transition year are vetted.</p> <p>Under Section 19(2) of the National Vetting Bureau (Children and Vulnerable Persons) Act 2012, Tusla will notify AGS of specified information by submitting a NVB4, where they have a bona fide concern that that a person may harm, cause a child to be harmed, or attempt to harm a child.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> AGS- National Vetting Bureau

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Emergency Intervention	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Identification information including name, surname, date of birth and photograph • Physical characteristics • Location information • Family, lifestyle and social circumstances information • Health and welfare information • Special category information including race, ethnicity, religion and sexual orientation 	<p>In circumstances where a child's immediate safety is deemed to be at risk, an emergency intervention may be undertaken with assistance from the AGS. AGS has the power under Section 12 of the Child Care Act to remove a child to safety, if they have reasonable grounds to believe that there is an immediate and serious risk to the health / welfare of the child concerned.</p> <p>Child Rescue Ireland (CRI) Alert enables the AGS to seek assistance from the public in the case of a child abduction. CRI Alerts are issued under certain criteria and Tusla has a responsibility to aid the AGS by sharing information, where appropriate and necessary.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • AGS
Child in Care	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Identification information including name, surname, gender, date of birth and photograph • Identification information belonging to the carer reporting child missing, care home manager and child's social worker including name and date of birth • Physical characteristics • Contact details • Family, lifestyle and social circumstances information • Education information • Location information including address • Health, welfare and medical information • Special category information including race, ethnicity, religion and sexual orientation 	<p>A "child in care" refers to a person under 18 who is not living with their birth family and is placed in the care of Tusla either by court direction or by voluntary agreement.</p> <p>Tusla is responsible for ensuring that all children in care placements are appropriately cared for and that any threat to their safety is dealt with promptly and in a manner that is respectful of the child's rights.</p> <p>In order to protect the needs and welfare of a child in care, an Absence Management Plan is developed for the child, where required. The plan is used to assess the level of risk if a child goes missing. The missing child in care report is shared with the AGS to proceed with the investigation to safely locate the child.</p> <p>Information may also be shared between the AGS and Tusla in instances when a child in care is arrested for engaging in criminal behaviour.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • AGS – information regarding a child's care status is captured on the Garda information system, PULSE
Investigation and prosecution of criminal offences	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Identification information including name, surname, date of birth • Physical characteristics • Location information including address 	<p>AGS is mandated by the Policing, Security and Community Safety Act 2024 to bring criminals to justice by detecting and investigating crime. The relationship between Tusla and AGS forms an integral part of the child protection and welfare</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • AGS • Fiosrú • Director of Public Prosecutions (DPP)

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Contact information • Family, lifestyle and social circumstances information • Health and welfare information • Special category information including race, ethnicity, religion, sexual orientation and criminal information 	<p>service. As a result, Tusla cooperates with AGS and other law enforcement and court services in the investigation, prevention and detection of crime.</p> <p>If a complaint or disclosure is made and additional information is required, Tusla may process necessary and proportionate information of the individual for the purposes of preventing, detecting, investigating, or prosecuting criminal offences.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Court services
On going case management	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Identification information including name, gender and date of birth • Location information including address • Contact information • Family, lifestyle and social circumstances information • Health and welfare information • Special category information including race, ethnicity, religion and sexual orientation • Criminal information 	<p>Tracking Systems and Record-keeping</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Tusla and AGS will continue to monitor open cases. <p>Strategy Discussion and Meetings</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - At any point during the child protection process, a strategy meeting with the AGS may be called to discuss the concerns reported and agree joint actions. Tusla and AGS will convene and facilitate the meeting to prepare a plan of joint action for the protection of a child and their siblings, if necessary. - Case management for Children in Care 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • AGS for ongoing case management and specialist interviews • Policing and Community Safety Authority (PCSA) • Parents/Guardians • Barnahus • Health Service Executive for forensic medical examinations • Ombudsman and Ombudsman for Children • Fiosrú • Probation Services • Guardian ad litem (GALs) • Courts • Oberstown • Prison Service • Youth Justice providers • Relevant professional service providers
Policing and security services	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Identification information including name • Location information including address • Contact information 	<p>AGS is mandated by the Policing, Security and Community Safety Act 2024 to maintain peace and public order, prevent crime and protect life and property. In doing so, AGS will work together with Tusla to ensure that the needs of employees and those concerned are met.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • AGS • Policing and Community Safety Authority (PCSA) • Fiosrú

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*Purpose and Legal Basis

The purpose for processing personal data is to facilitate the sharing of personal data between Tusla and the AGS as they relate to child protection and welfare issues.

We rely on the following legal basis for processing both personal and special category data:

- Necessary for compliance with a legal obligation to which Tusla is subject. Key legislation is:
 - the Child Care Act 1991,
 - the Child and Family Agency Act 2013,
 - Children First Act 2015,
 - National Vetting Bureau (Children & Vulnerable Persons) Acts 2012 to 2016,
 - Policing, Security and Community Safety Act 2024,
 - Criminal Justice (Withholding of Information on Offences against Children and Vulnerable Persons) Act 2012,
 - Criminal Evidence Act 1992,
 - Criminal Law (Sexual Offences) Act 2017,
 - Sexual Offenders Amendment Act 2023,
 - Criminal Law (Sexual Offences and Human Trafficking) Act 2024,
 - Policing, Security and Community Safety Act 2024, and
 - section 41 of the Data Protection Act 2018.
- To protect the vital interests of an individual and for reasons of substantial public interest.
- Necessary for the performance of tasks carried out in the public interest or in the exercise of official authority.
- Necessary for the purposes of the provision of social care and for the management of social care systems and services on the basis of child and welfare legislation.

Data Protection Rights

All individuals have legal rights in relation to their personal data. For further data protection information or to exercise these data rights please see the main [Tusla Data Protection Notice](#).