



Information for Parents, Guardians and the General Public

The safety, welfare and development of children and young people are core objectives and key priorities for the HSE.

Under the [Children First Act 2015](#) the HSE has statutory obligations to:

- ◆ Keep children and young people safe from harm while attending the service.
- ◆ Assess any potential for harm to a child or young person while attending the service.
- ◆ Develop a Child Safeguarding Statement that outlines the policies and procedures which are in place to manage the risks that have been identified.
- ◆ Appoint a relevant person to be the first point of contact in respect of the Child Safeguarding Statement.

The Child Safeguarding Statement should be on display in HSE services, and a copy can be made available to service users and members of the public on request.

Key Responsibilities of HSE Staff

- ◆ Every staff member has a responsibility and duty of care to ensure that every child/young person availing of and or attending a HSE service is safe and protected from harm.
- ◆ All staff have a responsibility to report concerns to Tusla - Child and Family Agency without delay, where there is a reasonable concern in relation to the safety or welfare of a child. If you tell a staff member anything that gives them reasonable grounds to be concerned about a child or a child's safety or welfare they must make a report to Tusla.
- ◆ Mandated Persons are legally required to report to Tusla without delay, any knowledge, belief or reasonable suspicion that a child has been harmed, is being harmed, or is risk of being harmed.
- ◆ Wherever possible parents/guardians should be informed of any child protection or welfare concern, and where a report is being made to Tusla and/or An Garda Síochána.

The safety and welfare of children is everyone's responsibility. If you have a concern about the welfare or protection of a child you should contact [Tusla - Child and Family Agency](#).