



Putting
CHILDREN
FIRST



Roles and Responsibilities of General Practitioners

If there are reasonable grounds for concern that a child has been, is being or is at risk of being abused a report must be made to the Duty Social Worker in Tusla - Child and Family Agency

General Practitioners need to be aware of and comply with their responsibilities under the [Children First Act 2015](#) and [Children First National Guidance for the Protection and Welfare of Children 2017](#).

Mandated Persons

Under the Children First Act 2015 all registered medical practitioners within the meaning of section 2 of the Medical Practitioners Act 2007 are [mandated persons](#). From 11th December they will have a legal responsibility to report child protection concerns above a defined threshold to Tusla. They may also be requested to provide **mandated assistance** to Tusla in respect of a mandated report received by Tusla.

Whenever a GP has reasonable grounds for concern that a child may have been, is being, or is at risk of being abused or neglected they must report this to Tusla. They must also consider if their concerns reach the threshold for making a mandated report.

Legal Responsibilities of Relevant Organisations

Organisations classed as providers of **relevant** services under the Children First Act have statutory obligations to:

- Keep children safe from harm while availing of those services;
- Carry out a risk assessment; and
- Prepare and publish a Child Safeguarding Statement.” (www.dcyh.ie)

A relevant service is “Any work or activity which is carried out by a person, a necessary and regular part of which consists mainly of the person having access to, or contact with, children in - (c) any hospital, hospice, health care centre or other centre which receives, treats or otherwise provides physical or mental health services to children”

[Schedule 1 Children First Act 2015](#).

www.hse.ie/childrenfirst