



## Roles and Responsibilities of HSE Contracted Services

HSE contracted services 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](#).

**All** organisations, including those providing services to adults, should consider the need to have policies and procedures in place on the following:

- ◆ Dealing with child protection concerns
- ◆ Reporting child protection concerns
- ◆ Working safely with children
- ◆ Recruiting and managing staff
- ◆ Involving parents and children
- ◆ Implementing and reviewing safeguarding strategies

Many people in contracted services are [Mandated Persons](#) and have a legal responsibility to report child protection concerns above a defined threshold to Tusla - Child and Family Agency. To find out which professionals are mandated persons check [Schedule 2 of the Children First Act 2015](#).

### Legal Responsibilities of Relevant Services

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.

To find out if your service is a relevant service check [Schedule 1 of the Children First Act 2015](#).

Chapter 4 in [Children First National Guidance for the Protection and Welfare of Children 2017](#) outlines statutory obligations and best practice procedures in child safeguarding that all organisations dealing with children and young people should consider.

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](#).



HSE Children First  
National Office