



## Information on Reasonable Grounds for Concern

[Children First: National Guidance for the Protection and Welfare of Children \(2017\)](#) states that “you should always inform Tusla - Child and Family Agency when you have reasonable grounds for concern that a child may have been, is being, or is at risk of being abused or neglected. If you ignore what may be symptoms of abuse, it could result in on-going harm to a child. It is not necessary for you to prove that abuse has occurred to report a concern to Tusla. All that is required is that you have reasonable grounds for concern.”

Reasonable grounds for a child protection or welfare concern include:

- Evidence, for example an injury or behaviour, that is consistent with abuse and is unlikely to have been caused in any other way.
- Any concern about possible sexual abuse.
- Consistent signs that a child is suffering from emotional or physical neglect.
- A child saying or indicating by other means that he or she has been abused.
- Admission or indication by an adult or a child of an alleged abuse they committed.
- An account from a person who saw the child being abused.

Further details on reasonable grounds for concern and when to make a report are in the [HSE Child Protection and Welfare Policy](#).

### Retrospective Abuse

If you receive a disclosure from an adult that they were abused as a child and, as a result of that disclosure, you have reasonable grounds for concern that a child (identifiable or not), who is under 18 years at the time of the disclosure, has been or is being abused or neglected, or a child is at risk of being abused or neglected in the future, this information should be reported to Tusla.

**If any member of staff has reasonable grounds for concern they have a responsibility to make a report to the [Duty Social Worker](#) in Tusla - Child and Family Agency.**