



The following documents have been developed by Tusla to support organisations to meet their requirements under the act.

They include a guide to developing a Child Safeguarding Statement and a guidance document for developing relevant child safeguarding policies, procedures and practices, all of which can be accessed here:
tusla.ie/children-first



Children First E-learning Programme

There is a free, universally available, Tusla e-learning programme which can be accessed and completed by anyone who works with children or who is interested in the Children First Act 2015. There is a certificate on completion.

Please see:

tusla.ie/children-first/children-first-e-learning-programme

Name of Service: _____

Address: _____

Name of Designated Liaison Person: _____

Contact No: _____

Name of Relevant person for Child Safeguarding Statement: _____

Contact No: _____

This booklet is an action of the Mayo Children and Young People's Services Committee (CYPSC), delivered by the Safeguarding Children and Young People Subgroup.
 May 2020.



Children First

Information Leaflet for Groups and Organisations that Provide Services or Activities for Children and Young People in County Mayo

Children First Act, 2015



An Ghníomhaireacht um Leanaí agus an Teaghlach
 Child and Family Agency



COISTE NA SEIRBHÍDÍ DO LEANAÍ & DO DHAONÉ ÓGA

Maigh Eo

What do you need to do?

Find out if you are a provider of a relevant service.

To qualify as a provider of a relevant service under the act, you must employ at least one other person, whether through contract or voluntary arrangement to undertake any work or activity with children. This includes organisations who permit one or more volunteers to undertake any work or activity with children, such as sports, arts or youth organisations. (See schedule 1 of the Children First Act, 2015).

If you are a provider of a relevant Service, the act requires that the provider:

- **Keep children safe from harm** while they are using the service
- **Carry out a risk assessment** to identify whether a child or young person could be harmed while availing of the service

‘Harm’ in relation to the Children First Act, 2015 is defined as:

(a) assault, ill-treatment or neglect of the child in a manner that seriously affects or is likely to seriously affect the child’s health, development or welfare, or

(b) sexual assault

NB: The risk assessment required needs to be included in the Child Safeguarding Statement and is specific to this legislation and is not a general health and safety risk assessment.

- **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 organisation’s Child Safeguarding Statement

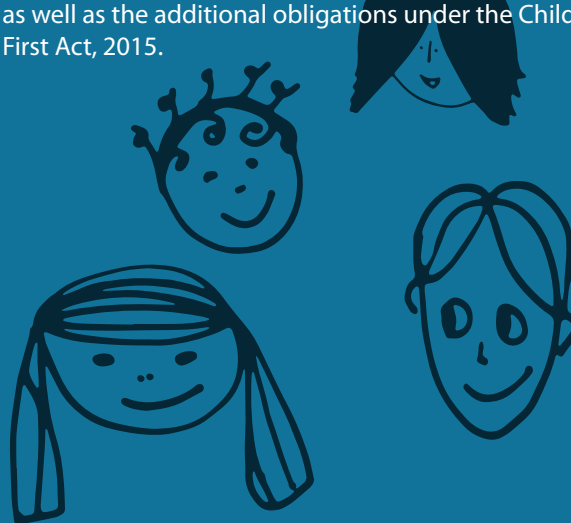
- **Maintain a List of Mandated Persons** (where relevant). Mandated Persons are certain people, many of whom are professionals, who have a legal responsibility to report child abuse to Tusla. (See schedule 2 of the Children First Act, 2015)
- **Please note:** Organisations and individuals working with children and young people should check schedules 1 & 2 of the Children First Act, 2015 to see if they come within the remit of the legislation. (See page 55 of the revised Children First Guidance 2017).

The guidance can be downloaded on the Tusla website: tusla.ie/children-first

Revised Children First Guidance 2017

This guidance applies to everyone who comes into contact with children. This includes family, friends, neighbours, professionals and volunteers. It outlines how to recognise child abuse and ensure that child protection concerns are reported to Tusla/and or An Garda Síochána.

The Children First Act, 2015 operates alongside the revised *Children First National Guidance 2017*. The obligations under the act are in addition to those outlined in the guidance. It may be necessary for organisations to update their policies and procedures to take account of the *Children First National Guidance 2017*, as well as the additional obligations under the Children First Act, 2015.



Key Dates	Information
11th December 2017	Mandated Persons acquired new legal obligations to report child abuse. Providers of relevant services are required to prepare a Child Safeguarding Statement and risk assessment
11th March 2018	Existing providers of relevant services have until this date to publish their Child Safeguarding Statement and risk assessment
11th March 2020	Existing providers of relevant services have until this date to undertake the first review of their Child Safeguarding Statement and Risk Assessment.
11th March 2022	Second review to be undertaken
Ongoing Reviews	Reviews to be undertaken every 24 months thereafter

The Mayo CYPSC Safeguarding Children and Young People Sub-committee will make information available to organisations in Mayo in relation to any briefing sessions, training and / or documentation to support the implementation of the Children First Act 2015.

**For further information and advice contact:
Children First Information & Advice Officer - Mayo
Tel: (094) 90 49137**