

Child Safeguarding Roles in Early Years Services



RELEVANT SERVICES UNDER THE CHILDREN FIRST ACT, 2015

Only services listed in Schedule 1 of the Children First Act 2015.

Schedule 1 as Relevant to Early Years Services:

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 (a) an establishment which provides early years services within the meaning of Part VIIA of the Child Care Act 1991.

ALL EARLY YEARS SERVICES ARE RELEVANT
SERVICES AND THEREFORE LEGALLY REQUIRED TO
HAVE A CHILD SAFEGUARDING STATEMENT

MANDATED PERSON

Only those listed in Schedule 2 of the Children First Act, 2015

Schedule 2 Mandated Persons:

The following classes of persons are specified as mandated persons for the purposes of this Act:

15. (j) childcare staff member employed in an **early years'** service within the meaning of Part VIIA of the Child Care Act 1991, (as amended by the Childcare Amendment Act, 2024).

18. A person carrying on an early years service within the meaning of Part VIIA of the Child Care Act 1991, (as amended by the Childcare Amendment Act, 2024).

This means: A childcare staff member employed in an early years service and a person carrying on an early years service are mandated persons under the Children First Act, 2015.



OF THESE ROLES AND IT IS IMPORTANT
THAT EVERYBODY IS AWARE OF THEIR
ROLE(S) IN SAFEGUARDING CHILDREN



A PROVIDER OF A RELEVANT SERVICE

A Provider of a Relevant Service as per the Children First Act 2015, is someone who employs, contracts with or permits one, or more than one other person, to undertake any work or activity that constitutes a relevant service. Each service should be clear on who is the provider of the relevant service in their organisation.

This is usually the employer.



RELEVANT PERSON

As defined in the Children First Act 2015, 'means a person who is appointed by a provider of a relevant service to be the first point of contact in respect of the provider's Child Safeguarding Statement'.



DESIGNATED LIAISON PERSON (DLP)

All organisations that are providing services to children and families should appoint a designated liaison person (DLP) and a deputy designated liaison person, in keeping with best practice in child safeguarding.

The role of the DLP is:

- To ensure that the organisation's reporting procedure is followed
 - To ensure that concerns are referred promptly to Tusla
 - To act as a resource and support to workers with a concern
 - To record all concerns and actions taken