



An Roinn Leanaí, Míchumais
agus Comhionannais
Department of Children,
Disability and Equality

Child Safeguarding Statement Template for Childminding Services



Department of Children, Disability and Equality



B. Child Safety

Childminder Child Safeguarding Statement

About me
<p>My name is _____ and I am a provider of a childminding service for children in my home.</p> <p>The address is:</p>
My childminding service & how I work with children
<p>I provide a childminding service for _____ children who are aged between _____ and _____ years.</p> <p>The days I mind children are: _____.</p> <p>I mind children during these hours: _____.</p>

While in my care children may be involved in activities where they interact with other children and adults such as indoor and outdoor play, excursions or outings, online activities or other child-friendly activities.

Type of activity	Here are examples of activities in my service.	Available in my service
Indoor play		<input type="radio"/> Yes/ <input type="radio"/> No
Outdoor play		<input type="radio"/> Yes/ <input type="radio"/> No
Collection & Drop offs		<input type="radio"/> Yes/ <input type="radio"/> No
Excursions or outings		<input type="radio"/> Yes/ <input type="radio"/> No
Online activities		<input type="radio"/> Yes/ <input type="radio"/> No
Other activities		<input type="radio"/> Yes/ <input type="radio"/> No

My commitment to principles to safeguard children from harm

I am committed to the guiding principles of safeguarding children which means my service is a child-centred safe environment. The welfare of the child is the first and paramount consideration in my service. I respect the rights of every child to be kept safe and protected from harm, to be listened to and to be heard and to be treated equally and not discriminated against. My emergency cover person/s and I will conduct ourselves in a way that reflect these principles and the requirements of Children First legislation and National Guidance.

Risk of harm assessment

I think about any potential for a child to be harmed while in my care.

The table below describes potential risks of harm (as defined in the Children First Act, 2015) in a childminding service and what I will do to manage these risks to make sure that children are kept safe while in my care.

Situation	Potential Risk	What I will do to manage this risk
Interactions of children with adults (e.g. childminder, emergency person(s), household/ family members, parents, visitors)	Risk of harm to a child by an adult such as: 3 Rough handling of children 3 Shouting at or chastising children 3 Food not provided on an ongoing basis and/or nutrition to the extent that it causes harm 3 Sexual, physical, emotional abuse or neglect. 3 Access/exposure to inappropriate/harmful media materials. 3 Inappropriate actions or interactions causing harm. 3 Engaging children in activity that frightens them that would be consistent with harmful behaviours	3 I have completed safeguarding training as required as per my procedure for child safeguarding training. 3 I will ensure I choose suitable person(s) as my emergency contact person(s) and ensure they are subject to Garda vetting as per my procedure in this handbook. 3 I have a procedure for reporting child protection & welfare concerns to Tusla Child Protection Social Work and, where appropriate, An Garda Síochána. 3 I have a complaints policy 3 I have a Procedure for management of allegations of abuse against childminder, emergency cover or members of the household. 3 No other person than myself and my emergency cover is permitted to care for or engage with a child in my care outside of my supervision.

Situation	Potential Risk	What I will do to manage this risk
Interactions with other children	<p>Risk of harm to a child by another child such as:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 3 Extreme acts of bullying 3 Sexual, emotional or physical abuse. 3 Children using social media platforms to post derogatory comments or pictures of other children. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 3 I have a positive behaviour policy. 3 I have a safe Internet and Technology Policy or I do not allow access to the internet for the duration that children are being cared for in my home. 3 I have a Supervision policy. 3 I have a Complaints policy. 3 I report child protection & welfare concerns in accordance with the reporting procedure set out in this handbook.
Interactions online (e.g. social media, digital images, photography, video recordings)	<p>Risk of harm to a child online such as:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 3 Abuse through social media or internet access. 3 Poor management of images or recordings of children, including those shared publicly and on social media. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 3 I have a safe Internet and Technology Policy which includes a safe photographing and recording procedure. 3 Children in my care are always supervised when using technology in my service.
Lone working in demanding environment	<p>Risk of unintentional harm from</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 3 Absence of second adult to recognise and respond and support any instances of poor practice 3 Stressful and demanding environment 3 Frustrated responses to children as a result of tiredness or emotional stress 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 3 I am conscious of the possibility of unintentional harm and endeavour to monitor myself. 3 I will seek support from relevant organisations as necessary. 3 I will not take on the care of children that I do not have the capacity for.
Indoor and outdoor play	<p>Risk of harm to a child by an adult or another child during play due to inadequate supervision such as: bullying, name calling, inappropriate physical contact.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 3 Children in my care are supervised according to my supervision policy. 3 I have a general Health and Safety Policy risk assessment and risk management policy. 3 I have a complaints policy & complaints management procedure. 3 I will report child protection & welfare concerns in line with the reporting procedure.

Situation	Potential Risk	What I will do to manage this risk
Excursions or outings	<p>Risk of harm to a child by an adult or another child during outings such as:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 3 Children being harmed by inappropriate actions or interactions with adults or children, including those who are not part of my service. 3 A child going missing, or unaccounted for, for any period of time. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 3 Children in my care are always supervised. 3 I have a general risk assessment and risk management policy. 3 I have a complaints procedure where concerns can be brought to my attention. 3 I have a Procedure for reporting child protection & welfare concerns
Safeguarding incident or allegation of harm	<p>Risk of harm to a child if I do not recognise or take seriously, or respond appropriately if</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 3 Children being harmed if they are not listened to or taken seriously if they wish to share information about being harmed. 3 Children being harmed further if signs that a child may have experienced physical, emotional, sexual abuse or neglect is not recognised and responded to. 3 Children being harmed further if child protection and welfare concerns are not reported to Tusla Social Work Department. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 3 I have completed safeguarding training as required as per my procedure for child safeguarding training in this handbook. This training specifically addresses recognition of the signs of harm and how to make a report to Tusla Child Protection Social Work . 3 I recommend my emergency person does Child protection training. They are aware of the contents of my CSS. 3 I have a Procedure for management of allegations of abuse against childminder, emergency cover or members of the household which is included in this handbook. 3 I have a child protection & welfare concerns procedure for reporting concerns to Tusla Child Protection Social Work and An Garda Síochána.

The table below describes some additional situations (if applicable) and potential risks of harm (as defined in the Children First Act, 2015) that I identified when I reviewed my Child Safeguarding Statement and risk of harm assessment.

Situation	Potential Risk	What I will do to manage this risk

Signed:

Date:

Safeguarding procedures

My Child Safeguarding Statement has been developed in line with requirements under the Children First Act 2015; the Children First: National Guidance for the Protection and Welfare of Children 2017 and Tusla's Child Safeguarding: A Guide for Policy, Procedure and Practice 2nd Edition.

The procedures listed in my risk assessment required to keep children safe are mandated by the Children First Act 2015 and included in this handbook will be implemented in full. In addition, the handbook contains procedures for the maintenance of a list of mandated persons and the requirements to have a relevant person.

Putting safeguarding policies and procedures into practice

I recognise that safeguarding children is an ongoing process. I am committed to implementing this Child Safeguarding Statement and the procedures needed to keep children safe from harm while they are in my childminding service

I will review and update my Child Safeguarding Statement every 2 years or sooner if there is any change in my childminding service.

This statement starts on _____ and is due to be reviewed on _____.

Signed:

Date:

I am the provider of this childminding service and relevant person under the Children First Act, 2015. For any queries about this Child Safeguarding Statement please contact me by phone:

or email:

You must print out pages 12 – 17, sign and date them where indicated and keep them ready for inspection.

Child Safeguarding Policies & Procedures (to be read in conjunction with the Child Safeguarding Statement Section)

I am committed to keeping children safe from harm and will do all that I can to make sure that children are kept safe while they are in my care and using my childminding service. I understand that children can be harmed in ways that can seriously affect their health, development and welfare such as physical abuse, emotional abuse, sexual abuse or neglect. This can also include serious incidences of bullying.

I have participated in Pre-registration Training and have engaged with the Childminding Development Officers and my local County Childcare Committee concerning child safeguarding information and supports.

Procedures as required under the Children First Act 2015

The Children First Act 2015 details specified procedures that I am required to have in place.

1. Procedures for safe selection and recruitment:

- 3 My emergency cover person(s)* and I were presented to Tusla for the purposes of Garda vetting and assessment of its contents.
- 3 My emergency cover person and I presented the requisite police clearance documentation from outside of the state if applicable to Tusla for consideration.
- 3 I ensure in so far as reasonable that the person I identify as my emergency cover person is safe to care for children. This may include, where appropriate, the seeking, consideration and verification of references for any person whom I engage to fulfil this task.
- 3 Other adults residing in my home are not permitted to have unsupervised (either by sight or sound) access to any child, who is not my own, in my care. In addition, under the childminding regulations I am required to ensure any person over the age of 16 who normally resides in my home and will be present when I am offering childminding services is vetted by An Garda Síochána.

2. Procedure for Reporting child protection & welfare concerns:

- 3 I will report all information I have about child protection or welfare concerns that relates to a child being harmed or abused, to Tusla's Child Protection Social Work Services or in an emergency, and An Garda Síochána.
- 3 I will make reports to Tusla's through the Tusla online portal, whenever possible.
- 3 When I am unsure if a child protection or welfare concern should be reported to Tusla, I will seek an informal consultation through Tusla's Child Protection Social Work Services.
- 3 When I make a referral to Tusla I will make sure that parents are made aware, unless advised not to do so by the social work department for the safety of the child or children. I will also not inform parents where my personal safety is an issue, or where informing the parents may impede Tusla's ability to carry out an assessment.
- 3 I am a mandated person as defined by the Children First Act 2015. That means by law I must report any child protection and welfare concerns to Tusla's Child Protection Social Work Services.

In an emergency situation and if I am unable to contact Tusla, I will contact An Garda Síochána.

3. Procedure for management of allegations of abuse against childminder, emergency cover or members of the household:

- 3 As a first step I will advise any person who believes that I, my emergency cover person or a person present in my home has harmed a child, to bring their information to the immediate attention of Tusla's Child Protection Social Work Services (CPSW) or in an emergency to An Garda Síochána.
- 3 I am obliged as a mandated person to share the information with Tusla myself.
- 3 If the allegation is about my emergency cover person or a person who resides in my home, I will ensure that the person has no unsupervised access to children until such time as I have reported the matter to Tusla CPSW and sought their guidance and direction.
- 3 My emergency cover person is required to report any allegation of harm to a child made in respect of myself and or a person living in my home to the attention of Tusla CPSW, and where appropriate An Garda Síochána. I will also as a mandated person report the information.
- 3 I keep a written account of all information concerning harm to a child made known to me and ensure it is kept in a secure place.

4. Procedure for Maintaining a List of mandated persons:

- 3 The Children First Act requires that a list of mandated persons is held in all relevant services.
- 3 A child-minding service is a relevant service as defined by the Act.
- 3 As a childminder I am the only mandated person in my service.

5. Procedure for Child Safeguarding training:

- 3 I have completed pre-registration training and Children First e-learning.
- 3 Emergency cover person(s) are recommended to participate in Children First training so that they know how to recognise and respond to signs of abuse or harm.
- 3 I update and refresh our training as required and participate in additional safeguarding training or refresher training to enhance my knowledge and skills in preventing, recognising and responding to safeguarding issues.
- 3 I will provide information and make sure that my emergency person(s) knows about their responsibilities to keep children safe and are familiar with my Child Safeguarding Statement, its content, and my child safeguarding procedures.

6. Procedure for appointing a relevant person:

- 3 As a childminder I am the relevant person for the purpose of the Child Safeguarding Statement (CSS). This means that I can be contacted by parents (and children), professionals and TUSLA, or any other person and requested to provide information about the CSS and the safeguarding procedures I have in place in my service.
- 3 I will ensure that the CSS will be updated if a new risk of harm is identified.
- 3 My statement will be reviewed and updated as required by the Children First Act every 2 years.

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