



CHILD SAFEGUARDING STATEMENT

The Irish Foster Care Association (IFCA) is the national organisation that supports foster families and the wider fostering community.

Nature of Service provided by IFCA:

- Promoting partnership between everyone involved in foster care to work for, and in the best interests of the child in care.
- Providing support and learning opportunities for persons involved in foster care in Ireland.
- Creating a greater public awareness of and promoting foster care in Ireland.
- Advocating for excellence for all involved in foster care.

Nature of Service whereby contact with children may occur:

- IFCA offers events where children may be present.
- IFCA offers placements at times for transition year students who seek learning experiences.
- IFCA offers information talks to students.
- IFCA liaises with other child focussed organisations.
- IFCA offers Internships on occasion.
- Children may visit / attend IFCA's work premises on occasion.
- IFCA offers support and guidance to foster carers via its National Helpline/Advocacy Service where concerns exist, particularly relating to allegations of abuse to a child.
- IFCA hosts a national annual meeting for foster carers, typically featuring a dedicated children's program.

Risk Assessment:

We have carried out an assessment of any potential for harm to a child while availing of our services including the area of online safety when accessing the internet. Below is a list of the areas of risk identified and the list of procedures for managing these risks.

- IFCA maintains a Risk Register that contains a statement of risk in relation to Child Safeguarding and Child Protection.
- IFCA has a Child Protection Policy which applies to all Staff, Volunteers, Students, Trustees and contractors.

- IFCA adheres to the Children First Act 2015, the Children's First: National Guidance for the Protection and Welfare of Children (2017), and Tusla's Safeguarding: A Guide for Policy, Procedure and Practice.
- All relevant Staff and Volunteers have completed the required Certificate on Children's First.
- IFCA's recruitment policy adheres to best practice and all relevant staff are vetted by the Garda Central Vetting Unit (GCVU).
- All volunteers are Garda Vetted.

Procedures:

Our Child Safeguarding Statement has been developed in line with requirements under the Children First Act 2015, Children First: National Guidance for the Protection and Welfare of Children (2017), and Tusla's Child Safeguarding: A Guide for Policy, Procedure and Practice. In addition to the procedures listed in our risk assessment, the following procedures support our intention to safeguard children while they are availing of our service:

IFCA's Child Protection Policy includes:

- Procedure for the management of allegations of abuse or misconduct against workers/volunteers of a child availing of our service;
- Procedure for the safe recruitment and selection of workers and volunteers to work with children;
- Procedure for provision of and access to child safeguarding training and information, including the identification of the occurrence of harm;
- Procedure for the reporting of child protection or welfare concerns to Tusla;
- Procedure for maintaining a list of the persons (if any) in the relevant service who are mandated persons;
- Procedure for appointing a relevant person.

**This policy is available upon request.*

Implementation:

IFCA recognise that implementation is an on-going process. Our service is committed to the implementation of this Child Safeguarding Statement and the procedures that support our intention to keep children safe from harm while availing of our service.

This Child Safeguarding Statement will be reviewed on _____, or as soon as practicable after there has been a material change in any matter to which the statement refers.

Signed:



(Provider / CEO/Chairperson)

_____corrinne.hasson@ifca.ie_____ (Provider Contact Details)

Effective Date:

_____1/10/2025_____

Review Date:

_____1/10/2027_____ (every 24 months)

For queries, please contact **Andrew Murphy (andrew.murphy@ifca.ie)**, Designated Liaison Person (DLP) / Relevant Person under the Children First Act 2015.

This Child Safeguarding Statement is publicly displayed in our offices and available on our website. A copy will be provided to Tusla or any member of the public upon request.