

Children's Rights Alliance Safeguarding Statement

June 2020

1. Name of the service being provided

The Children's Rights Alliance is a small organisation that has one office in 7 Red Cow Lane, Smithfield, Dublin 7.

The Children's Rights Alliance unites over 100 organisations working together to make Ireland one of the best places in the world to be a child. We improve the lives of all children and young people by ensuring Ireland's laws, policies and services comply with the standards set out in the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child.

The Children's Rights Alliance engages with children aged 0-18 years in the following ways:

- As part of the Access to Justice Initiative the Alliance through a consultant provides face to face legal advice to children, young people and their families in clinic based settings throughout the country
- The Alliance provides free basic legal information to children, young people and their families on the dedicated information line
- The Children's Rights Alliance sometimes makes referrals to Tusla and Gardaí when we receive information from third parties
- On an occasional basis the Alliance works directly with children and young people on Legal and Policy projects and consultations as well as liaises with organisations that work directly with children

2. Principles to safeguard Children from Harm

The Children's Rights Alliance is committed to the protection of children and young people with whom we work and to promoting good practice within our organisation.

The Alliance is committed to promoting the rights of the child including the participation of children and young people in matters that affect them.

The Children's Rights Alliance is committed to adherence to the Children First Act 2015 and the Children First National Guidance 2017.

3. Risk Assessment

We have carried out an assessment of any potential for harm to a child while availing of our services. Below is a list of the areas of risk identified and the list of procedures for managing these risks, available on request and are also contained in the Child Protection Policy and Procedures document on our website [here](#).

| Risk Identified | Policies and/or Procedures in place to manage Risk |
|--|--|
| <p>A child is harmed by an Alliance staff member (for the purpose of the Safeguarding Statement to include volunteers, interns and Board members) through coming into contact with the Children’s Rights Alliance</p> | <p>Child Protection Policy and Procedures document in particular the sections on:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • general procedures for safeguarding children (section 4.1 of the child Protection Policy and Procedures document) • the management of allegations of abuse or misconduct against workers/ volunteers of a child availing of our service (section 5 of the child Protection Policy and Procedures document) • the procedure for the safe recruitment and selection of workers (section 6.1 of the child Protection Policy and Procedures document) • procedure for engaging with children on the information line |
| <p>A child is harmed by another person (including another child) through coming into contact with the Children’s Rights Alliance</p> | <p>Child Protection Policy and Procedures document in particular the sections on:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • general procedures for safeguarding children (section 4.1 of the child Protection Policy and Procedures document) • the procedure for the provision of child safeguarding training and information (section 6.2 of the child Protection Policy and Procedures document) • the procedure for the reporting of child protection or welfare concerns to Tula (section 4.2 of the child Protection Policy and Procedures document) |
| <p>A child is harmed by a failure on the part of a staff member to report or the filing of a poor report of allegations/suspicions of abuse made to Alliance staff by telephone, email, and letter or in person</p> | <p>Child Protection Policy and Procedures document in particular the sections on:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • the procedure for the provision of child safeguarding training and information (section 6.2 of the child Protection Policy and Procedures document) • the procedure for the reporting of child protection or welfare concerns to Tula (section 4.2 of the child Protection Policy and Procedures document) |

4. Child Safeguarding Policies and Procedures

Our Child Safeguarding Statement has been developed in line with requirements under the Children’s First Act 2015, *Children’s 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.

- General procedures for Safeguarding Children (section 4.1 of the Alliance Child Protection Policy and Procedures document)
- Procedure for the management of **allegations of abuse** or misconduct against workers/volunteers of a child availing of our service (section 5 of the Alliance Child Protection Policy and Procedures document)
- Procedure for the **safe recruitment and selection** of workers and volunteers to work with children (section 6.1 of the Alliance Child Protection Policy and Procedures)
- Provision of and access to **child safeguarding training and information**, including the identification of the occurrence of harm (section 6.2 of the Alliance Child Protection Policy and Procedures document)
- Procedure for the **reporting of child protection or welfare concerns** to Tusla (section 4.2 of the Alliance Child Protection Policy and Procedures document)
- The appointment of a Designated Officer and Deputy Designated Officer (section 4.5 of the Alliance Child Protection Policy and Procedures document)
- Procedure for appointing a **Relevant Person** (section 4.5 of the Alliance Child Protection Policy and Procedures document)
- Procedure for maintaining a list of the persons in the service who are **mandated persons** (section 4.6 of the Alliance Child Protection Policy and Procedures document)

All procedures and practices listed are available on request and are set out in our Child Protection Policy and Procedures document on our website here.

5. Implementation and Review

- We recognise that implementation is an ongoing 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 in June 2022 or as soon as practicable after there has been a material change in any matter to which the statement refers.
- This statement along with all of our child protection policies and procedures have been published on the service website and is displayed in a prominent place on the premises.
- It has been provided to all staff, volunteers and any other persons involved with the service. It is readily accessible to parents and guardians on request. A copy of this Statement will be made available to Tusla if requested.

Signed:

Chair



Date: 16 June 2020

For further information on this Statement, contact our Relevant Person and Designated Officer:

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