



1.3B GUIDANCE ON TUSLA CHILD SAFEGUARDING STATEMENT (ROI ONLY)

This section refers to a requirement under legislation in the Republic of Ireland only and is not the same as a health and safety risk assessment.

Under the Children First Act 2015, organisations providing a relevant service with children, such as the Church of Ireland, must display a 'compliant' Child Safeguarding Statement (public document) and undertake a Local Safeguarding Risk Assessment (Guidance 1.3A) (private document). A Child Safeguarding Statement must not be published until the Local Safeguarding Risk Assessment is complete.

CHILD SAFEGUARDING STATEMENT

The RCB has worked with the Tusla Child Safeguarding Statement Compliance Unit and have agreed that the centralised statement is compliant **(1.3B Template 1)** and should be displayed prominently in places where children's activities take place.

This template should be completed by adding in the relevant details and the name(s) of the relevant person/people who should be contacted in relation to the statement.

LOCAL SAFEGUARDING RISK ASSESSMENT

This assessment considers the potential for harm (as defined by the Children's First Act below) to come to children while they are in the organisation's care. It should be noted that the potential for harm is not a general health and safety risk which is a totally different requirement.

Definition of 'harm' in the Children First Act 2015.

'Harm' means, in relation to a child –

- (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 abuse of the child, whether caused by a single act, omission or circumstance or a series or combination of acts, omissions or circumstances, or otherwise;

The process is intended to enable the organisation to:

- Identify potential areas where harm could happen.
- Develop policies and procedures to minimise these.
- Review whether adequate precautions have been taken to eliminate or reduce these areas of potential harm.

As outlined in **Guidance 1.3A** this process should be completed for each activity with children, reviewed annually and stored locally should Tusla wish to view it.



1.3B TEMPLATE 1: TUSLA CHILD SAFEGUARDING STATEMENT (ROI ONLY)

NAME AND DETAILS OF THE SERVICE PROVIDER

[INSERT NAME OF DIOCESE OR PARISH]:

[INSERT ADDRESS OF DIOCESE OR PARISH]:

[INSERT TELEPHONE NUMBER OF DIOCESEAN OR PARISH OFFICE]:

STATEMENT

This Child Safeguarding Statement has been developed in line with requirements under the Children First Act 2015, the Children First: National Guidance, and Tusla's Child Safeguarding: A Guide for Policy, Procedure and Practice.

The [INSERT NAME OF DIOCESE OR PARISH]:

acknowledges its duty of care to safeguard and promote the welfare of children and is committed to ensuring safeguarding practice that reflects statutory responsibilities, government guidance and complies with best practice.

The [INSERT NAME OF DIOCESE OR PARISH]:

is committed to safeguarding children by working under the guidance of the COI Child Safeguarding Policy and its associated guidance. We recognise that the welfare and interests of children are paramount in all circumstances. The bishops, clergy, volunteers and staff are committed to ensuring that all children have a positive and enjoyable experience in a safe and child-centred environment and are protected from abuse whilst participating in activities.

NATURE OF SERVICE

The [INSERT NAME OF DIOCESE OR PARISH]:

provides the following activities and services to children under 18 years of age:

[INSERT LIST OF SERVICES TO CHILDREN]:



RISK ASSESSMENT

All parishes, dioceses and other bodies operating under the COI Child Safeguarding Policy have conducted a written Local Safeguarding Risk Assessment of any potential for harm to a child through their involvement in each church activity. The written risk assessment indicates the areas of potential harm, the likelihood of harm occurring, and lists the required policy, guidance, process and practice required to manage risks. If there are site specific risks that local parishes and diocese need to include in their Child Safeguarding Statement they have done so in conjunction with their relevant person.

Risks Identified	Polices/Procedures in Place
Risk of harm (as defined in the Children First Act 2015) of a child by a member of the clergy/staff/volunteer/peer	The COI Child Safeguarding Policy includes a code of behaviour and vetting procedures which addresses these risks. These are available as part of the procedures under Standard 1 available here https://safeguarding.ireland.anglican.org/
Risk of harm (as defined in the CFA 2015) to a child on outings by a member of the clergy/staff/volunteer/stranger/peer	The COI Child Safeguarding Policy addresses these risks as part of procedures under Standard 1 which is available at https://safeguarding.ireland.anglican.org/
Risk of harm (as defined in the CFA 2015) to a child of bullying by peers	The COI Child Safeguarding Policy addresses these risks as part of procedures under Standard 1 which is available at https://safeguarding.ireland.anglican.org/
Risk of harm (as defined in the CFA 2015) of a child from unauthorised photography	The COI Child Safeguarding Policy addresses these risks as part of procedures under Standard 1 which is available at https://safeguarding.ireland.anglican.org/
Risk of harm (as defined in the CFA 2015) of a child from online abuse through social media or internet access	The COI Child Safeguarding Policy addresses these risks as part of procedures under Standard 1 which is available at https://safeguarding.ireland.anglican.org/
Church of Ireland Bishops, members of the clergy, volunteers or staff fail to understand their responsibilities to protect children from risk of harm (as defined in the CFA 2015)	Procedures to provide safeguarding training and support are in place as part of procedures under Standard 1 which is available at https://safeguarding.ireland.anglican.org/



In addition to the risk assessments and the above policies and procedures named, the following procedures are in place as part of the COI Child Safeguarding Policy which is available here <https://safeguarding.ireland.anglican.org/>:

- Procedures for the safe recruitment of volunteers or employees to work with children in our services.
- Procedures for provision of and access to child safeguarding training, including the identification and reporting of harm.
- Procedures for reporting child protection and welfare concerns to Tusla and An Garda Síochána.
- Procedures for maintaining a list of persons in each diocese who are mandated persons.
- Procedure for appointing a relevant person for this Child Safeguarding Statement.
- Procedures for dealing with allegations made against clergy/staff/volunteer/peer.

IMPLEMENTATION

The *[INSERT NAME OF DIOCESE OR PARISH]:*

recognises that implementation is an ongoing process and is committed to the implementation of this Child Safeguarding Statement and the procedures that support its intention to keep children safe from harm and the risk of harm. The Child Safeguarding Statement will be reviewed no later than

[INSERT DATE]:

or as soon as practicable after there has been a material change in any matter to which the statement refers.

Signed by the provider of the relevant service:

[INSERT NAME OF BISHOP OR INCUMBENT]:

[INSERT DATE OF SIGNATURE]:

RELEVANT PERSON

For any queries relating to this statement please contact the relevant person who is:

[INSERT NAME OF RELEVANT PERSON]:

[INSERT EMAIL ADDRESS]:

⁶ 24 months after the existing Child Safeguarding Statement