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Registered Charity in Northern Ireland (NIC104483);  
Registered Charity in Republic of Ireland (20015695).

## Support and training

As a mandated person, you will be required to complete training in Children First. Tusla has developed an online training programme called 'Introduction to Children First' which is available on the Tusla website.

## Pastoral care and support

This should be offered to all concerned during/after a report of concern or disclosure. Individuals, families and leaders will need supported at different stages of the process.

Tusla has also developed a number of information booklets about Children First and mandatory reporting, which provide information on:

- How to report a concern about a child to Tusla;
- What happens when Tusla receives a report of a concern;
- Tusla's internal process for requesting assistance from mandated persons;
- The Children First Act and mandated reporting;
- The introduction of mandated reporting in Ireland.

## Websites

[www.tusla.ie](http://www.tusla.ie)

[www.dcy.gov.ie](http://www.dcy.gov.ie)

## Taking Care resources



**Taking Care Two** – Child protection guidelines for the Presbyterian Church in Ireland



**We Care 4u** – A pocket guide for all children.



**We Care 4u too** – A pocket guide for leaders and all working with children and young people.



**We Care with u** – A pocket guide for all parents and carers.



**Taking Care of all** – A pocket guide for all those working with adults.

**Taking Care Helpline**  
+44 (0)28 9041 7235



## Reporting a Concern in the Republic of Ireland

The Children First Act  
and Mandated Reporting



## Mandated reporting in Ireland

A significant development has taken place in child protection and welfare in Ireland. The Minister for Children and Youth Affairs has published a revised Children First: National Guidance for the Protection and Welfare of Children, and announced the commencement of the remaining sections of the Children First Act 2015 from 11 December 2017. This introduced mandated reporting in Ireland from this date.



## What is mandated reporting?

Mandated reporting places a legal obligation on certain groups of people to report concerns of child harm to Tusla – Child and Family Agency. These people are known as ‘mandated persons’.

### Mandated persons must:

- Report child protection and welfare concerns to Tusla;
- Help Tusla, if requested, in assessing a reported concern.

Mandated persons (i.e. minister or other member of the clergy, designated person, pastoral care worker or youth worker) are people who have ongoing contact with children and/or families and who are in a key position to protect children from harm.

## As a Church:

We are mandated under Children First. This means that if we have reason to believe that a child may have been, is being, or is at risk of being abused or neglected, we are legally required to report our concerns to Tusla.

### What to do if...

#### You are concerned about the safety or welfare of a child involved in a congregation or organisation:

- Without delay, discuss your concern with the Taking Care office: +44 (0)28 9041 7229.
- Advice will be given by the Taking Care office as to whether your concern reaches the threshold for a mandated report or reasonable grounds for concern.

- If a report is required, then submit a Child Protection and Welfare Report form to the duty social work service in the area where the child lives.

In an emergency situation where you think a child is in immediate danger, please contact the local Tusla duty social work service immediately.

Contact details for all duty social work teams are on the Tusla website, [www.tusla.ie](http://www.tusla.ie)

If a child is in danger outside office hours or if you cannot contact Tusla, contact an Gardaí Síochána on 999.

## What will happen if I report a concern to Tusla?

Tusla checks all reports and information on the day they are received and, if necessary, takes emergency action to protect the child.

The report will first be screened to identify the risk to, and concern for, a child and the best service to respond to the report. If necessary, an assessment will then be carried out to gather more information.

The congregation and the Taking Care office may be required to assist Tusla in our assessment of any concern you report. For example, you may be asked to give more information over the phone or in writing or to attend a meeting.

There are a number of possible outcomes following an assessment.

For more information about how to report a concern to Tusla and what happens after you do so, see Tusla’s ‘A Guide for the Reporting of Child Protection and Welfare Concerns’. This is available on the Tusla website.

[www.tusla.ie](http://www.tusla.ie)

