

**The purpose of the Child Safeguarding Statement is to keep children safe from harm while accessing services in One Family.**

### **Name of Service being provided:**

One Family is working to ensure a positive and equal future for all members of all one-parent families in Ireland – changing attitudes, services, policies and lives. Together with one-parent families and those working with them, we are committed to achieving equality and respect for all families.

In addition to striving for fundamental structural change, we support individual one-parent families as they parent through times of family, work and life change, and those experiencing a crisis pregnancy. We know that every family is unique, and so we work in a family centred way to bring about better lives for parents and children.

### **The services which directly engage children are as follows:**

- Creative Therapies for children & young people
- Counselling Service
- Parenting Service
- Programmes Service
- Helpline
- One Family Events

### **Nature of Service and Principles to Safeguard Children from Harm:**

In One Family we work from a place of respect and acceptance of the parents, children and organisations that we come in contact with. We work with compassion, which means that we connect with others in a relationship of equals and we are completely non-judgmental. We believe that we can hold the hope for the families we work with, especially when they are unable to. We achieve this through innovation, excellence, determination and our client-centred approach

This statement is displayed in One Family. It has been made available to all staff, Board members and all other persons involved in One Family. This statement and supporting policies are available to parents/guardians upon request. This statement is available to TUSLA if requested.

## 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.

Risk Identified	Procedure in Place to Manage Risk Identified
From staff	<p><b><i>We have written policies or procedures in the following areas:</i></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Recruitment</li> <li>• Garda vetting</li> <li>• Induction</li> <li>• Staff training</li> <li>• +Remote Working</li> <li>• Support and supervision of staff</li> <li>• +Managing Staff Remotely over long periods.</li> <li>• Staff Management</li> <li>• Training policy</li> <li>• +Safely Working with young people &amp; parents online &amp; through phone support.</li> <li>• Comments and complaints</li> <li>• +Supporting young people and parents to make a complaint remotely.</li> <li>• Confidentiality</li> <li>• + Supporting Confidentiality online for young people and parents.</li> <li>• Working with children code of ethics</li> <li>• +Keeping children and parents safe as they engage online and through phone support with One Family</li> <li>• Record keeping</li> <li>• +Remote Working and Record Keeping</li> <li>• Data protection</li> <li>• Whistle blower</li> <li>• Governance and Board structures</li> <li>• Child Protection &amp; Welfare Reporting Procedures</li> <li>• Policy for dealing with allegation of abuse/neglect against staff</li> </ul>
From other adults	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Adequate supervision of children at all times throughout the premises.</li> <li>• Signing in at reception and events</li> <li>• Supporting children and young people accessing personal care needs</li> </ul>

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Health &amp; Safety Statement</li> <li>• Supporting children accessing the building (lift and stairwells)</li> <li>• Sign-in records</li> <li>• Collection of children policy: Children can only be collected by parent/guardian or by a named person on file.</li> <li>• Children cannot leave with an adult who appears to be under the influence of substance misuse – other family member is contacted as per collection policy</li> </ul>
From events/outings	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Event management</li> <li>• Adequate staff child ratio</li> <li>• Risk management</li> <li>• +Awareness of Children's Needs when working through phone support and online with parents</li> <li>• Camera and photograph</li> <li>• Social outings– refers to 'any outings outside the project' and procedures in place re: child/staff ratios, wearing seat belts in cars/minibus and adequate supervision etc.</li> </ul>

Our 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.

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:

- Procedure for the management of allegations of abuse or misconduct against workers/volunteers 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.

All procedures listed are available upon request.

## Implementation

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.

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## One Family Child Safeguarding Statement

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This Child Safeguarding Statement will be reviewed in July 2027, or as soon as practicable after there has been a material change in any matter to which the statement refers.

Signed: Karen Kiernan

Provider: One Family

Provider's contact name and details: Karen Kiernan, CEO, One Family.

For queries please contact: [kkiernan@onefamily.ie](mailto:kkiernan@onefamily.ie) or 01 6629212

Relevant person under the Children First Act 2015.

Reviewed on: 10<sup>th</sup> July 2025

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