



PLEASE NOTE: For further information on any of the information below please refer to Tulsa website www.tusla.ie

Children First: Relates to the recognition of child abuse and neglect, the reporting of same to Tusla – Child and Family Agency, and the best practice which organisations should adhere to, to keep children safe while availing of their services.

Non-statutory obligations for all persons coming into contact with children are set out in the Children First Guidance and additional statutory obligations for organisations providing **relevant services** to children are set out in the Children First Act 2015.

Relevant Service: (as defined at No. 5 of Schedule 1 of the Children First act 2015)
Any work or activity which consists of the provision of –

- (a) Educational, research, training, cultural, recreational, leisure, social or physical activities to children....

Whether or not for commercial or any other consideration.

Your dancing class/school/organisation is a relevant service.

The Children First Act 2015 provides for key child protection measures, the following measures concern your dancing classes:

- To keep children safe from harm while availing of your service,
- To undertake a **risk assessment** to identify the potential for harm to a child who is availing of your service.
- To prepare a '**child safeguarding statement**' which sets out the policies and procedures which are in place to mitigate the risks identified.

Risk Assessment: It should be noted that risk in this context is the risk of abuse and not general health and safety risks.

Failure to comply with providing a Child Safeguarding Statement for your service, risk being added to the Register of Non-Compliance, which shall be available publicly in the Tusla Office, CHILD SAFEGUARDING STATEMENT COMPLIANCE UNIT (CSSCU).

Any person who has a concern that a child is being abused or neglected should report that concern to Tusla. The Children First guidance will help you to recognise the signs of abuse or neglect, and will set out how you should report your concerns to Tusla.

If you are an adult working on your own to provide a service to children, you should ensure that your procedures follow best practice in child protection.

Tusla's Children First E-Learning Programme:

It covers topics which include:

- Recognising and reporting child abuse
- The responsibility of organisations working with children to safeguard children.
- The role of the designated liaison person.

Tusla website <http://www.tusla.ie>



