

**Child Safeguarding**

**Risk Assessment Template**

**Version Control**

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| **Document Name** | Child Safeguarding Risk Assessment Template | | C:\Users\priorn\Desktop\DCU_logo_stacked_slate_yellow-01.png |
| **Unit Owner** | Office of the Chief Operations Officer | |
| **Version Reference** | **Original Version 2.0** | **Reviewed Version 2.1** |
| **Approved by** | Executive | Deputy COO |
| **Effective Date** | December 14th 2021 | November 29th 2024 |

MAY 27, 2018

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| **Overview of how this Child Safeguarding Risk Assessment process operates:**  As part of this Risk Assessment exercise, please provide a short summary of operational matters associated with your Functional Area. This information is designed to provide some “context” to assist the Designated Liaison Person with understanding the operational environment of the Faculty/Department/School/Unit.  *(Any Member, having concern as to a child’s welfare must consult immediately with the DLP and the Internal Reporting Form set out in Appendix 7 of the Child Protection Procedures must be completed and submitted without delay to the DLP.)*  While it is not possible to foresee and remove all risk of harm, DCU has in place policies and procedures and trained personnel to manage and reduce risk to the greatest possible extent. This Child Safeguarding Risk Assessment will provide important information in an operational setting to the Designated Liaison Person.  This Child Safeguarding Risk Assessment document should be read in conjunction with the Child Protection Policy, the Child Protection Procedures document and the Child Safeguarding Statement.  To help you complete this Risk Assessment, Information on Reasonable Grounds for Concern is set out in Appendix 1:  **Please complete this Child Safeguarding Risk Assessment and return it to the Designated Liaison Person. Thank you.** |

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| **Neglect:**  The threshold of harm at which a Mandated Person must make a mandated report to Tusla is reached when he/she knows, believes or has reasonable grounds to suspect that a child’s needs have been neglected, are being neglected, or are at risk of being neglected to the point where the child’s health, development or welfare has been or are being seriously affected, or are likely to be seriously affected.  Please quantify the likelihood of this risk occurring – Low/Medium/High  Has the threshold of harm been reached -Yes or No  If Yes, has a Mandated Report been provided to Tusla (please attach a copy)  Please outline the procedures/protocols in place to address the risk of harm identified above  Who is responsible for managing this Child Protection Risk |

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| **Emotional Abuse:**  The threshold of harm at which a Mandated Person must make a mandated report to Tusla is reached when he/she knows, believes or has reasonable grounds to suspect that a child has been, is being, or is at risk of being ill-treated to the point where the child’s health, development or welfare have been or are being seriously affected, or are likely to be seriously affected.  Please quantify the likelihood of this risk occurring – Low/Medium/High  Has the threshold of harm been reached -Yes or No  If Yes, has a Mandated Report been provided to Tusla (please attach a copy)  Please outline the procedures/protocols in place to address the risk of harm identified above  Who is responsible for managing this Child Protection Risk |

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| **Physical Abuse:**  The threshold of harm at which a Mandated Person must make a mandated report to Tusla is reached when he/she knows, believes or has reasonable grounds to suspect that a child has been, is being, or is at risk of being assaulted and that as a result the child’s health, development or welfare have been or are being seriously affected, or are likely to be seriously affected.  Please quantify the likelihood of this risk occurring – Low/Medium/High  Has the threshold of harm been reached -Yes or No  If Yes, has a Mandated Report been provided to Tusla (please attach a copy)  Please outline the procedures/protocols in place to address the risk of harm identified above  Who is responsible for managing this Child Protection Risk |

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| **Sexual Abuse:**  All sexual abuse falls within the category of seriously affecting a child’s health, welfare or development. If a Mandated Person knows, believes or has reasonable grounds to suspect that a child has been, is being, or is at risk of being sexually abused, then the Mandated Person must make a mandated report to Tusla.  Sexual abuse is an offence against the child as specified in Schedule 3 of the 2015 Act.  Please quantify the likelihood of this risk occurring – Low/Medium/High  Has the threshold of harm been reached -Yes or No  If Yes, has a Mandated Report been provided to Tusla (please attach a copy)  Please outline the procedures/protocols in place to address the risk of harm identified above  Who is responsible for managing this Child Protection Risk |

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| **Garda Vetting – Please indicate the Garda Vetting status of staff in your Faculty/School/Unit:** |

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| **Child Protection Training - Please outline the Child Protection training arrangements in place for staff in your Faculty/School/Unit:** |

**In undertaking this Risk Assessment, DCU has endeavoured to identify as far as possible the risk of harm relevant to Faculty/Department/ Schools/Units and to ensure that adequate procedures are in place to manage and address all risks identified. Please provide further details in terms of Gaps and Actions and Timelines.**

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| **Please identify any Gaps identified as part of this Risk Assessment:** |

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| **Please list the Actions required to address the Identified Gaps:** |

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| **Please set out a realistic Timeline to address the Identified Gaps:** |

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| **Finally - Please outline any Learnings identified as part of this Child Safeguarding Risk Assessment. These Learnings may impact on the policies and procedures associated with Child Safeguarding in a University setting.** |

This Child Safeguarding Risk Assessment has been prepared by ……........ ………………

**Signed \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

**Definitions:**

**Designated Liaison Person (DLP)** means a person appointed by the University in accordance with the 2017 National Guidance. For the purpose of the Child Safeguarding Statement, the DLP will also be the Relevant Person.

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| **Contact** | **Name** | **Contact details** |
| Designated Liaison Person (DLP) | Dr Declan Raftery  Chief Operations Officer | [childprotection@dcu.ie](mailto:childprotection@dcu.ie)  01-700 5118  01-700 8257 |
| Deputy Designated Liaison Person (DDLP) | Martin Ward,  Deputy Chief Operations Officer | [childprotection@dcu.ie](mailto:childprotection@dcu.ie)  01-700 7476 |
| Deputy Designated Liaison Person (DDLP) | Anne Sinnott  Deputy President | [childprotection@dcu.ie](mailto:childprotection@dcu.ie)  01-7005396 |

**Relevant Person (RP)** means the person appointed by the University as the relevant person in accordance with Section 8 of the 2015 Act and who will be the first point of contact in respect of the Chid Safeguarding Statement. For the purposes of the Child Safeguarding Statement, the Relevant Person will also be the Designated Liaison Person.

**Mandated Person (MP)** means a person, employed by the University, who is specified in Schedule 2 of the 2015 Act, the full list of Mandated Persons is set out in Schedule 2 of the 2015 Act.

**Appendix 1:**

**To help you complete this Risk Assessment, Information on Reasonable Grounds for Concern is set out below:**

**Information on Reasonable Grounds for Concern**

Children First: National Guidance for the Protection and Welfare of Children (2017) states that “you should always inform Tusla - Child and Family Agency when you have reasonable grounds for concern that a child may have been, is being, or is at risk of being abused or neglected.

If you ignore what may be symptoms of abuse, it could result in on-going harm to a child. It is not necessary for you to prove that abuse has occurred to report a concern to Tusla. All that is required is that you have reasonable grounds for concern.

” Further details on reasonable grounds for concern and when to make a report are set out in Chapter 4 of the Child Protection Procedures document.

Reasonable grounds for a child protection or welfare concern include:

• Evidence, for example, an injury or behaviour, that is consistent with abuse and is unlikely to have been caused in any other way.

• Any concern about possible sexual abuse.

• Consistent signs that a child is suffering from emotional or physical neglect.

• A child saying or indicating by other means that he or she has been abused.

• Admission or indication by an adult or a child of an alleged abuse they committed

• An account from a person who saw the child being abused.

**Retrospective Abuse:**

If you receive a disclosure from an adult that they were abused as a child and, as a result of that disclosure, you have reasonable grounds for concern that a child (identifiable or not), who is under 18 years at the time of the disclosure, has been or is being abused or neglected, or a child is at risk of being abused or neglected in the future, this information should be reported to Tusla.