

SAFEGUARDING ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES



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Mountaineering Ireland Version Control			
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NGB: Mountaineering Ireland

Club Name:

The roles described below are the preliminaries to the implementation of safeguarding standards in Mountaineering Ireland. All persons working with children and young people must be compliant with this document.

National Children's Officer (NCO)

The role of the National Children's Officer includes:

- ✚ An advocate for the welfare and protection of children and young people in Mountaineering Ireland.
- ✚ Sharing knowledge of Mountaineering Ireland's Child Safeguarding Framework, and relevant child protection legislation including the Children First Act 2015 (ROI), National Vetting Bureau Act 2012-2016, and Co-Operating to Safeguard Children and Young People in Northern Ireland (2017).
- ✚ Responsibility for ensuring statutory obligations is in place, including the management of the Mountaineering Ireland Risk Assessment and Child Safeguarding Statement.
- ✚ Circulation of relevant information and resource materials to clubs affiliated to Mountaineering Ireland.
- ✚ Acts as the Relevant Person for the Mountaineering Ireland Child Safeguarding Statement.
- ✚ Provide advice, guidance, and information on all aspects of safeguarding to Mountaineering Ireland operational departments, clubs, and members.
- ✚ Responsibility for developing and renewing safeguarding policies and procedures.
- ✚ The promotion of the values, attitudes and structures which make sport enjoyable for children and young people.
- ✚ Communication with Club Children's Officers to ensure the distribution of safeguarding policies and procedures, and the promotion of related training, materials, resources, and events.
- ✚ Act as an advisor where children, young people and vulnerable adults are involved in a complaint and disciplinary process.

Club Children’s Officer (CCO)

Every youth club must appoint a Club Children’s Officer. They act as a resource regarding children’s issues. The Club Children’s Officer role includes:

- ✚ Advocate for the safeguarding policy within the club.
- ✚ Promote awareness of safeguarding guidelines within the club, among children and young people, and their parents/guardians.
- ✚ Ensure that children know how to make concerns known to appropriate the adults, including CCO and agencies.
- ✚ To encourage the appropriate involvement of parents/guardians in club activities.
- ✚ To report regularly to the Club Management Committee.
- ✚ Assist the committee with the Child Safeguarding Statement and the Club Risk Assessment.
- ✚ To ensure children have a voice in the running of their club and ensure that there are steps children and young people can take to express their concerns about their sports activities/experiences.
- ✚ Be aware of changes in membership and follow up on any unusual dropout, absenteeism or club transfers by children or Sports Leaders.
- ✚ To establish communication with other branches of the club, such as the facilitation of a parent’s information meeting.
- ✚ Keep record of each member on file, including junior members, their contact numbers and any special needs of the child that should be made known to leaders.
- ✚ Ensure that each member has annual membership including signing of a code of conduct for sports leaders, children, and young people.
- ✚ Ensure that the club rules and regulations include a complaint, disciplinary and appeals procedure, an anti-bullying policy, a safety statement, rules in relation to travel with children and the supervision and recruitment of leaders.
- ✚ The CCO should monitor the clubs 3-year refresh of Vetting and Safeguarding Training.



What is a Child Safeguarding Statement



Understanding Risk Assessments in Child Safeguarding Statements

Relevant Person

As defined in the Children First Act 2015 (ROI) a Relevant Person is a person who is appointed as the first point of contact in respect of the Child Safeguarding Statement. The Relevant Person for Mountaineering Irelands Child Safeguarding Statement is Catherine Hibbitt. Each club should appoint a relevant person for the club Child Safeguarding Statement. This is a Statutory requirement.

Designated Liaison Person (DLP)

Every club must appoint a DLP and a Deputy DLP. A DLP ensures that the clubs reporting procedures are followed. The DLP reports any suspected cases of child neglect or abuse to the Duty Social Worker Túsła/Garda Síochana or Gateway team/PSNI. The role of DLP also includes:

- ✚ Informing the NCO that a report has been submitted to the Statutory Authorities.
- ✚ Act as a resource for volunteers/coaches/parents who have a child protection or welfare concern.
- ✚ Be knowledgeable about child protection and undertake Safeguarding 1 and 3 training.
- ✚ Have knowledge of the relevant child protection legislation and local support services.
- ✚ Be familiar with Mountaineering Irelands **Recognising and Reporting Child Abuse policy** and procedures.
- ✚ The DLP can also be the Clubs CCO.

Mandated Person

The Mandated person is a person named under schedule 2 (Appendix 1) of the Children First Act 2015 (ROI). of abuse. Mandated persons have two main legal obligations under the Children First Act 2015. These are:

1. To report the harm of children above a defined threshold to Tusla.
2. To assist Tusla, if requested, in assessing a concern which has been the subject of a mandated report.

Section 14(1) of the Children First Act 2015 states:

‘...where a mandated person knows, believes, or has reasonable grounds to suspect, on the basis of information that he or she has received, acquired, or becomes aware of in the course of his or her employment or profession as such a mandated person, that a child—

- (a) has been harmed,
- (b) is being harmed, or

(c) is at risk of being harmed, he or she shall, as soon as practicable, report that knowledge, belief, or suspicion, as the case may be, to the Agency.’

Section 14(2) of the Children First Act 2015 also places obligations on mandated persons to report any disclosures made by a child:

‘Where a child believes that he or she–

(a) has been harmed,

(b) is being harmed, or

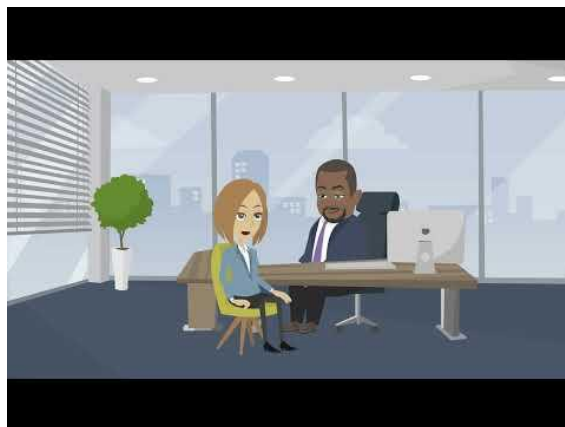
(c) is at risk of being harmed and discloses this belief to a mandated person in the course of a mandated person’s employment or profession as such a person, the mandated person shall, ... as soon as practicable, report that disclosure to the Agency.’

Section 2 of the Children First Act 2015 defines harm as follows:

‘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.’



Understanding the role of Mandated Persons

Note

Túsla also provide access to a Mandated Persons Roles and Responsibilities short eLearning course available here: [Link to Mandated Persons Roles and Responsibilities eLearning Module](#).

Appendix 1: Schedule of Mandated Persons under the Children First Act 2015

Schedule 2 of the Children First Act, 2015 specifies the following classes of persons as mandated persons for the purposes of this Act:

1. Registered medical practitioner within the meaning of section 2 of the Medical Practitioners Act 2007.
2. Registered nurse or registered midwife within the meaning of section 2(1) of the Nurses and Midwives Act 2011.
3. Physiotherapist registered in the register of members of that profession.
4. Speech and language therapist registered in the register of members of that profession.
5. Occupational therapist registered in the register of members of that profession.
6. Registered dentist within the meaning of section 2 of the Dentists Act 1985.
7. Psychologist who practises as such and who is eligible for registration in the register (if any) of members of that profession.
8. Social care worker who practises as such and who is eligible for registration in accordance with Part 4 of the Health and Social Care Professionals Act 2005 in the register of that profession.
9. Social worker who practises as such and who is eligible for registration in accordance with Part 4 of the Health and Social Care Professionals Act 2005 in the register (if any) of that profession.
10. Emergency medical technician, paramedic and advanced paramedic registered with the Pre-Hospital Emergency Care Council under the Pre-Hospital Emergency Care Council (Establishment) Order 2000 (S.I. No. 109 of 2000).
11. Probation officer within the meaning of section 1 of the Criminal Justice (Community Service) Act, 1983.
12. Teacher registered with the Teaching Council.
13. Member of An Garda Síochána.
14. Guardian ad litem appointed in accordance with section 26 of the Child Care Act, 1991.

15. Person employed in any of the following capacities:
- (a) manager of domestic violence shelter;
 - (b) manager of homeless provision or emergency accommodation facility;
 - (c) manager of asylum seeker accommodation (direct provision) centre;
 - (d) addiction counsellor employed by a body funded, wholly or partly, out of moneys provided by the Oireachtas;
 - (e) psychotherapist or a person providing counselling who is registered with one of the voluntary professional bodies;
 - (f) manager of a language school or other recreational school where children reside away from home;
 - (g) member of the clergy (howsoever described) or pastoral care worker (howsoever described) of a church or other religious community;
 - (h) director of any institution where a child is detained by an order of a court;
 - (i) safeguarding officer, child protection officer or other person (howsoever described) who is employed for the purpose of performing the child welfare and protection function of religious, sporting, recreational, cultural, educational, and other bodies and organisations offering services to children;
 - (j) child care staff member employed in a pre-school service within the meaning of Part VIIA of the Child Care Act, 1991;
 - (k) person responsible for the care or management of a youth work service within the meaning of section 2 of the Youth Work Act, 2001.
16. Youth worker who—
- (a) holds a professional qualification that is recognised by the National Qualifications Authority in youth work within the meaning of section 3 of the Youth Work Act, 2001 or a related discipline, and
 - (b) is employed in a youth work service within the meaning of section 2 of the Youth Work Act, 2001.
17. Foster carer registered with the Agency.
18. A person carrying on a pre-school service within the meaning of Part VIIA of the Child Care Act, 1991.

