



# Immigrant Council of Ireland

## Child Safeguarding Statement

May 2020

### **Name of the service being provided**

The Immigrant Council of Ireland is a non-governmental organisation and Independent Law Centre which provides information, advice and legal representation to migrants and their families moving to or living in Ireland. The Immigrant Council's aim is to directly assist migrants in navigating the Irish immigration system and, in turn, the organisation uses its experience and expertise to lobby for positive policy and legislative changes within the immigration system and associated areas.

The Immigrant Council of Ireland engages with children in the following ways:

- The Immigrant Council, through its Law Centre, occasionally provides face-to-face support, legal advice and representation to children, young people and their families. These minors are typically referred to the Immigrant Council by social workers, Tusla - Child and Family Agency, and other professionals working with minors (eg guardians ad litem). The parent(s) or referring professionals accompany these children and are present during the consultations.
- The Immigrant Council's Information and Support Service occasionally provides information on immigration and related issues to children and young people on its dedicated Helpline.
- The Immigrant Council provides training to young people from a migrant background on political participation.
- On a very occasional basis the Immigrant Council works directly with children and young people on legal, policy and other projects, hosts children at relevant events, as well as liaising with organisations that work directly with children.

### **Principles to safeguard children from harm**

The Immigrant Council is committed to the protection of children and young people with whom we work and to promoting good practice within our organisation.

The Immigrant Council is committed to promoting the rights of the child including the participation of children and young people in matters that affect them.

We believe the following:

- Our priority to ensure the welfare and safety of every child and young person who attends our service is paramount.
- Our guiding principles and procedures to safeguard children and young people reflect national policy and legislation and we will review our guiding principles and child safeguarding procedures every two years.
- All children and young people have an equal right to attend a service that respects them as individuals and encourages them to reach their potential, regardless of their background.
- We are committed to upholding the rights of every child and young person who attends our service, including the rights to be kept safe and protected from harm, listened to and be heard.
- Our guiding principles apply to everyone in our organisation.
- Staff members, board members, interns and volunteers must conduct themselves in a way that reflects the principles of our organisation.

## 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 those risks. These are also contained in the [Child Protection Policy](#) on our website.

Risk identified	Policies and/or Procedures in place to manage and mitigate identified risk
<p>A child is harmed by an Immigrant Council staff member (for the purposes of the Child Safeguarding Statement to include volunteers, interns and board members) through coming into contact with the Immigrant Council of Ireland.</p>	<p>Child Protection Policy, in particular the sections on:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• General procedures on safeguarding children (Sections 1.1, 1.3, 1.4, 1.7 &amp; 1.9 of the Child Protection Policy)</li> <li>• The management of allegations of abuse against staff of a child availing of our Services (Section 1.8 of the Child Protection Policy)</li> <li>• The procedure for the safe recruitment and selection of staff (Section 1.5 of the Child Protection Policy)</li> <li>• The procedure for the provision of child safeguarding training (Section 1.4 of the Child Protection Policy)</li> <li>• Law Centre Risk Management Policies and Procedures.</li> </ul>
<p>A child is harmed by another person (including another child) through coming into contact with the Immigrant Council of Ireland.</p>	<p>Child Protection Policy, in particular the sections on:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• General procedures on safeguarding children (Sections 1.1, 1.3, 1.4 &amp; 1.7 of the Child Protection Policy)</li> <li>• The management of allegations of abuse against a person who is not a staff member of a child availing of our</li> </ul>

	<p>Services (Section 1.8 of the Child Protection Policy)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The procedure for the provision of child safeguarding training (Section 1.4 of the Child Protection Policy)</li> </ul>
<p>A child is harmed by a failure on the part of a staff member to report or the filing of a poor report of allegations/suspicious of abuse made to Immigrant Council staff by telephone, email, letter or in person.</p>	<p>Child Protection Policy, in particular the sections on:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The management of allegations of abuse against a staff member or another person who is not a staff member of a child availing of our Services (Section 1.8 of the Child Protection Policy)</li> <li>The procedure for the provision of child safeguarding training (Section 1.4 of the Child Protection Policy)</li> </ul>

The Immigrant Council maintains a Risk Register that contains a statement of risk in relation to child safeguarding and child protection. The Immigrant Council [Child Protection Policy](#) identifies procedures to follow to mitigate risks that may present in the following identified scenarios:

- Where children are accessing information through the Helpline or accessing legal advice in person with one of the Immigrant Council Law Centre Solicitors or accessing support with one of the Information Service Officers;
- Where children are working in the Immigrant Council offices (as transition year work experience students) or children present in the offices for other reasons (such as the children of staff members);
- Where children are attending at events (including training) which the Immigrant Council has organised;
- Where allegations/suspicious of abuse are made to Immigrant Council staff by telephone, email, and letter or in person.

## Procedures

The Immigrant Council of Ireland's Child Safeguarding Statement has been developed in line with requirements under the Children First Act 2015, the *Children First: National Guidance for the Protection and Welfare of Children (2017)*, Tusla's *Child Safeguarding: A Guide for Policy, Procedure and Practice* and the Charities Regulator *Safeguarding Guidance for Charitable Organisations working with Children 2020*. In addition to the procedures listed in our risk assessment, the following procedures and practices support our intention to safeguard children while they are availing of our service:

- **General procedures for safeguarding children** (Sections 1.1, 1.3, 1.4, 1.7 & 1.9 of the Immigrant Council Child Protection Policy)
- Procedure for the management of **allegations of abuse** or misconduct against employees/interns/volunteers/board members from a child availing of our service (Section 1.8 of the Immigrant Council Child Protection Policy)

- Procedure for the **safe recruitment and selection** of employees, interns and volunteers to work with children (Section 1.5 of the Immigrant Council Child Protection Policy)
- Provision of and access to **child safeguarding training and information**, including the identification of the occurrence of harm (Section 1.4 of the Immigrant Council Child Protection Policy)
- Procedure for the **reporting of child protection or welfare concerns** to Tusla (Section 1.8 of the Immigrant Council Child Protection Policy)
- The Appointment of a **Designated Liaison Person** and **Deputy Designated Liaison Person** section 1.2 of the Immigrant Council Child Protection Policy)
- Procedure for appointing a **Relevant Person** (Section 1.2 of the Immigrant Council Child Protection Policy)
- There is no procedure for maintaining a list of mandated persons in the organisation, as there are no mandated persons employed by the organisation.

All procedures and practices listed above are available in our [Child Protection Policy](#).

### **Implementation and review**

- 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.
- This Child Safeguarding Statement will be reviewed in April 2022 or as soon as practicable after there has been a material change in any matter to which the Statement refers.
- This Statement along with our Child Protection Policy has been published on our website and is displayed in a prominent place on our premises.
- It has been provided to all staff, interns, volunteers and board members, and any other persons involved with the service. It is readily accessible to parents and guardians on request. A copy of this Statement will be made available to Tusla if requested.

**Signed: Roja Fazaeli**



**Chairperson of the Board, Immigrant Council of Ireland**

**For further information on this Statement, please contact our Child Protection Officer, Designated Liaison Person and Relevant Person:**

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