

## Who We Are

We are a new communities support group who assist families experiencing childcare protection interventions.

We are non judgemental. We listen. We assist families through the challenges that they meet. We offer a FREE service.

## We Offer

- One to one support service for families experiencing child protective interventions or that have had their children taken into care
- Outreach services
- Awareness raising
- Cultural support for front line professionals

## Contact

Migrant Family Support Service

### Dublin

New Communities Partnership  
53 Upper Dorset St, Dublin 1  
Tel: 01 87 27 842  
E mail: [familysupport@newcommunities.ie](mailto:familysupport@newcommunities.ie)

### Cork

New Communities Partnership  
107 Shandon Street, Cork  
Tel: 021 23 99 910  
E mail: [ncpcork@gmail.com](mailto:ncpcork@gmail.com)

## NCP MIGRANT FAMILY SUPPORT SERVICE

# GUIDELINES ON HOW TO BEST SAFEGUARD A CHILD

## What is Child Abuse?

### For Free Support & Information Call

Migrant Family Support Service  
53 Dorset St, Dublin 1

Tel 01 8727842

## [www.newcommunities.ie](http://www.newcommunities.ie)

New Communities Partnership—empowering and representing ethnic minorities and their organisations in Ireland

The Migrant Family Support Service is funded by TUSLA- Child and Family Agency.



Migrant Family Support Service supporting families experiencing child protection interventions.

[www.newcommunities.ie](http://www.newcommunities.ie)



# REMEMBER: NOTHING COMES BEFORE A CHILD'S SAFETY AND WELL BEING.

## Guidelines On How To Best Safeguard A Child

**i** An adult's behaviour can cause a child significant harm, knowingly or unknowingly. This can be in the form of **neglect, physical abuse, emotional abuse or sexual abuse.**

Failing to prevent any of these instances happening to a child is also putting a child at risk or harming a child.  
Having knowledge of a child being abused and not reporting it is a criminal offence. Sometimes, child abuse can be wilful, other times adults might not realise they are putting a child at risk.

## Who Is There To Help You?

**i** If in doubt or if you have any concerns about a child please get in contact immediately with:

**An Garda Siochana** - telephone **999**  
**Child and Family Agency** [www.tusla.ie](http://www.tusla.ie) – contact the **Duty Social Worker in your local area.**

**Parentline**- telephone **1890 92 72 77** or **01 873 35 00**

Your local GP or Public Health Nurse.

**NCP- Migrant Family Support Service** telephone **01 872 7842**

**i** This leaflet has been prepared for you by the **Migrant Family Support Service** and is intended to serve you as basic **guidelines** to what constitutes the base of child abuse. This is not a legal document.

For an extensive list of definitions, please speak to your nearest Duty Social Worker, Garda, GP or Public Nurse.

## 1 What Is Emotional Abuse?

- Humiliating a child.
- Shouting and cursing at a child.
- Excessively criticising a child, not showing him/ her affection.
- Preventing a child from having social interaction, isolating a child.
- Having your child witness incidents of Domestic Abuse is also a form of emotional abuse.

## 2 What Is Neglect?

- Not caring for a child properly by often **leaving the child alone and unsupervised (under the age of 18). Leaving an older sibling to supervise and care for younger siblings.**
- Not providing suitable housing/ shelter arrangements for a child to live in.
- Not attending to a child's physical needs by leaving a child hungry, dirty or not clothed according to the weather requirements.
- Not attending a child's medical or psychological appointments.
- Not providing a child with affection and emotional support.
- Lack of school attendance.

## 3 What Is Physical Abuse?

Any action that causes a child pain or discomfort ( i.e. cigarette burns, hot oil).

**Physical punishment as a way of disciplining a child.**

- Hurting a child by shaking, hitting, beating, slapping, punching or kicking a child.
- Force feeding a child.
- Depriving a child of sleep.
- Allowing a child no recreation time.
- Chocking, drowning, poisoning or suffocating a child.
- Delay in seeking medical help if a child is injured, sick or has a disability.
- Female genital mutilation (FGM) is a form of both physical and emotional abuse.

## 4 What Is Sexual Abuse?

- Involving a child in any sexual activities of an adult.
- The Irish law states that a person must be 17 years of age to consent to have sexual intercourse. The age of consent is the same for males and females.
- Intimidating, forcing or pressuring a child into touching his/ her private parts or kissing.
- Involving a child into inappropriate naked/ semi-naked photographs or videos.
- Sending a child text messages or other online communication with explicit content.
- Marrying a child to an adult.
- Forcing a child into prostitution.