

CHILD SAFEGUARDING STATEMENT



ORGANISATION DETAILS

Doras is an independent, non-profit, non-governmental organisation working to support and promote the rights of migrants. Our Child Safeguarding Statement has been developed in line with requirements under the Children First Act 2015, Tusla's *Child Safeguarding: A Guide for Policy, Procedure and Practice*, and the *Doras Child Protection & Welfare Policy*, and agreed by the Board of Directors.

SERVICES PROVIDED & RISK MANAGEMENT

Doras aims to provide advice and support to individuals and families through four separate areas of work: Direct Support Services, Refugee Resettlement, English Language Services, and Advocacy & Campaigning. Of these four areas, only three include working directly with clients, and therefore require child safeguarding procedure: Direct Support Services, Refugee Resettlement, and English Language Services. Each area presents different potential risks, for which specific risk-management solutions are outlined in a separate "Risk Assessment and Management Solutions" document.

The Designated Liaison Person is **Fiona McCaul**.

The Deputy Designated Liaison Person is **John Lannon**.

PROCEDURES

- 1 It is Doras policy that **all volunteers and staff members undergo regular Garda Vetting** (at least every 2 years), and that staff members working directly with children hold a Child Protection Training certificate.
- 2 Doras recognises that child protection and welfare considerations permeate all aspects of its work and must be reflected in all of the organisation's policies, procedures, practices and activities. In its policies, procedures, practices and activities, Doras will adhere to the following principles of best practice in child protection and welfare.

Doras will ensure:

- the protection and welfare of children is of paramount importance, regardless of all other considerations;
- compliance with its statutory obligations under the Children First Act 2015 and other relevant legislation relating to the protection and welfare of children;
- full cooperation with the relevant statutory authorities in relation to child protection and welfare matters
- the adoption of safe practices to minimise the possibility of harm or accidents happening to children and protect workers from the necessity to take unnecessary risks that may leave themselves open to accusations of abuse or neglect;

- adherence to confidentiality requirements in dealing with child protection matters.
 - adherence to the above principles in relation to any or all adult participants with respect to their status as vulnerable adults.
- 3 In addition to the procedures listed in our risk assessment, the following procedures support our intention to safeguard children while they are availing of our service:
- Procedure for the management of allegations of abuse or misconduct against workers/volunteers of a child availing of our service;
 - Code of Behaviour between workers and children;
 - Procedure for the safe recruitment and selection of workers and volunteers to work with children;
 - Procedure for provision of and access to child safeguarding training and information, including the identification of the occurrence of harm;
 - Procedure for the reporting of child protection or welfare concerns to Tusla;
 - Procedure for maintaining a list of the persons (if any) in the relevant service who are mandated persons;
 - Procedure for appointing a relevant person.

All procedures listed are available upon request.

IMPLEMENTATION

We recognise that implementation is an on-going 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 statement has been published on the organisation’s website and has been provided to all members of Doras personnel. It is readily accessible to parents and guardians on request. A copy of this Statement will be made available to Tusla and the Department if requested.

This Child Safeguarding Statement will be reviewed in June 2023 or as soon as practicable after there has been a material change in any matter to which the statement refers.

Signed:  (CEO)

Signed:  (Chairperson)

For queries, please contact Fiona McCaul at (f.mccaul@doras.org), Designated Liaison Person under the Children First Act 2015.