

HEART CHILDREN IRELAND CHILD SAFEGUARDING STATEMENT

Name of Service Being Provided

Heart Children Ireland is a support group for parents and families of children born with Congenital Heart Defects. We also support children with acquired heart disease.

The Management and Board of Heart Children Ireland have agreed the Child Safeguarding Statement set out in this document.

The designated Liaison Person (DLP) is Margaret Rogers CEO Heart Children Ireland

Nature of organisation and principles to safeguarding children from harm

As an organisation, Heart Children Ireland is committed to the safety and wellbeing of children and young people who participate in Heart Children Ireland events, and to ensuring they are safeguarded from harm. All Heart Children Ireland staff are appropriately vetted by the organisation and Garda Vetted. In addition all staff attend the necessary workshops/seminars conducted in relation to Child Safeguarding. All volunteers with access to children are Garda Vetted and made aware of Heart Children Ireland's Child Protection Policy.

In our Safeguarding Policy Document Heart Children Ireland provides information and best practice in relation to the following:

- Categories and definitions of Child Abuse
- Recognising abuse
- Dealing with a disclosure
- Reporting abuse
- Heart Children Ireland's procedures for dealing with allegations of abuse
- Codes of behaviours when carrying out duties associated with Heart Children Ireland.

Heart Children Ireland – who we are and what we do:

Heart Children Ireland is a support group for parents and families of children born with Congenital Heart Defects. We also support children with acquired heart disease.

Here are just some of our activities

1. Through our News Briefs, we provide updates about Heart Children Ireland services and supports, as well as relevant information about health service matters.
2. We provide a Family Psychology Support Service free to all members. Families supporting individuals with congenital heart conditions, adults with congenital heart conditions and bereaved families access this service.
3. We host social events where parents can meet and talk.
4. We hold an annual conference with keynote speakers from the world of congenital cardiology.
5. We have purchased lifesaving equipment for the Children's Heart Centre at Our Lady's Children's Hospital.
6. We purchased the first ECMO machine for the Intensive Care Unit at this hospital. This machine is saving lives on a daily basis.
7. We have purchased 18 Oxygen Saturation Monitors for the Cardiac Unit at Crumlin. These machines enable young babies to spend more time at home than they might otherwise do so.
8. We have provided 30 Coagu-Chek machines for our young heart children. We recently provided our 75th machine for a young adult at The Young Adult Congenital Unit at the Mater Hospital.

9. We have provided a dedicated clinic room for the Young Adult Congenital Unit at the Mater Hospital to facilitate our teenagers transferring from Crumlin Hospital.
10. We are privileged to manage The Blue Ribbon Fund on behalf of the Moran family. This fund provides assistance to families on the transplant journey with their child. This fund is in memory of Elaine Moran.

In accordance with section 11 of the Children First Act 2015, the following is the written Risk Assessment of Heart Children Ireland.

Heart Children Ireland has identified the following risks of harm in respect of its activities

Potential risk of harm to a young person identified	Procedure in place to manage risks identified
Risk of harm to a young person being left alone with Heart Children Ireland Staff	All Heart Children Ireland staff are vetted and are fully aware and versed in Heart Children Ireland's Safeguarding Statement
Risk of harm to a young person attending Art Therapy Classes funded by Heart Children Ireland	Art Therapist aware of Heart Children Ireland's Safeguarding Statement. All parents attending these activities are given a copy of Heart Children Ireland's Safeguarding Statement.
Risk of harm to young persons at Social Events held by Heart Children Ireland, e.g., Summer Picnics, Christmas Parties, fundraising events.	Parents/Guardians present at all times at Heart Children Ireland Social Events. Parents encouraged to read Heart Children Ireland's Safeguarding Statement.
Risk of harm to young people attending Crèche facilities at Heart Children Ireland's Annual Conference/Family Support Days Nationwide	Crèche personnel fully trained and Garda Vetted. Crèche personnel aware of Heart Children Ireland's Safeguarding Statement.
Risk of harm to a young person attending Heart Children Ireland's Family Psychology Support Service	Clinical Psychologist Garda Vetted and aware of Heart Children Ireland's Safeguarding Statement. Clinical Psychologist is a Mandated Person as defined by The Children First Act 2015
Risk of harm to a young person attending fundraising photo shoots.	Organiser aware of Heart Children Ireland's Safeguarding Statement. Organiser Garda Vetted.

It should be noted that risk in the context of this risk assessment is the risk of "harm" as defined in the children First Act 2015 and not general health and safety risk.

The Management and Board of Heart Children Ireland, in undertaking this Risk Assessment, have endeavoured to identify as far as possible the risks of harm that are relevant to Heart Children Ireland and to ensure that adequate procedures are in place to manage all risks identified. While it is not possible to foresee and remove all risks of harm, Heart Children Ireland has in place the procedures listed in this Risk Assessment to manage and reduce risk to the greatest possible extent.

This Risk Assessment has been completed by the Management and Board of Heart Children Ireland on:

Date

Signed _____

Date

Jennifer McCarron
Chairperson of Heart Children Ireland

Signed _____

Date

Margaret Rogers
CEO Heart Children Ireland

Procedures

Heart Children Ireland's Child Safeguarding Statement has been developed in line with requirements under the Children First Act 2015, The Children First: National guidance, and Tulsa's Child Safeguarding: A Guide for Policy, Procedure and Practice. In addition to the procedures listed in our Risk Assessment, the following procedures are also in place.

- Procedure for the management of allegations of abuse against Heart Children Ireland staff/volunteers of a young person availing of Heart Children Ireland's services.
- All Heart Children Ireland staff must attend Child Safeguarding Training
- List of all Heart Children Ireland Mandated Persons is outlined in Heart Children Ireland's Safeguarding Statement.
- Margaret Rogers, CEO Heart Children Ireland is the Designated Liaison Person and a Mandated Person under the Children First Act 2015.
- Linda Hogan, Administrator, Heart Children Ireland is Heart Children Ireland's Deputy Mandated Person.

Implementation

Heart Children Ireland recognises that implementation is an ongoing process and is committed to the implementation of this Safeguarding Statement and the procedures that support Heart Children Ireland's intention to keep children we come in contact with safe from harm.

This Safeguarding Statement will be reviewed on an annual basis by the Board of Heart Children Ireland, or as soon as practicable after there has been a material change in any matter to which this statement refers.

Signed

Jennifer McCarron Chairperson Heart Children Ireland

Signed

Margaret Rogers CEO Heart Children Ireland

For Queries please contact:

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Relevant Person under the Children First Act 2015.