

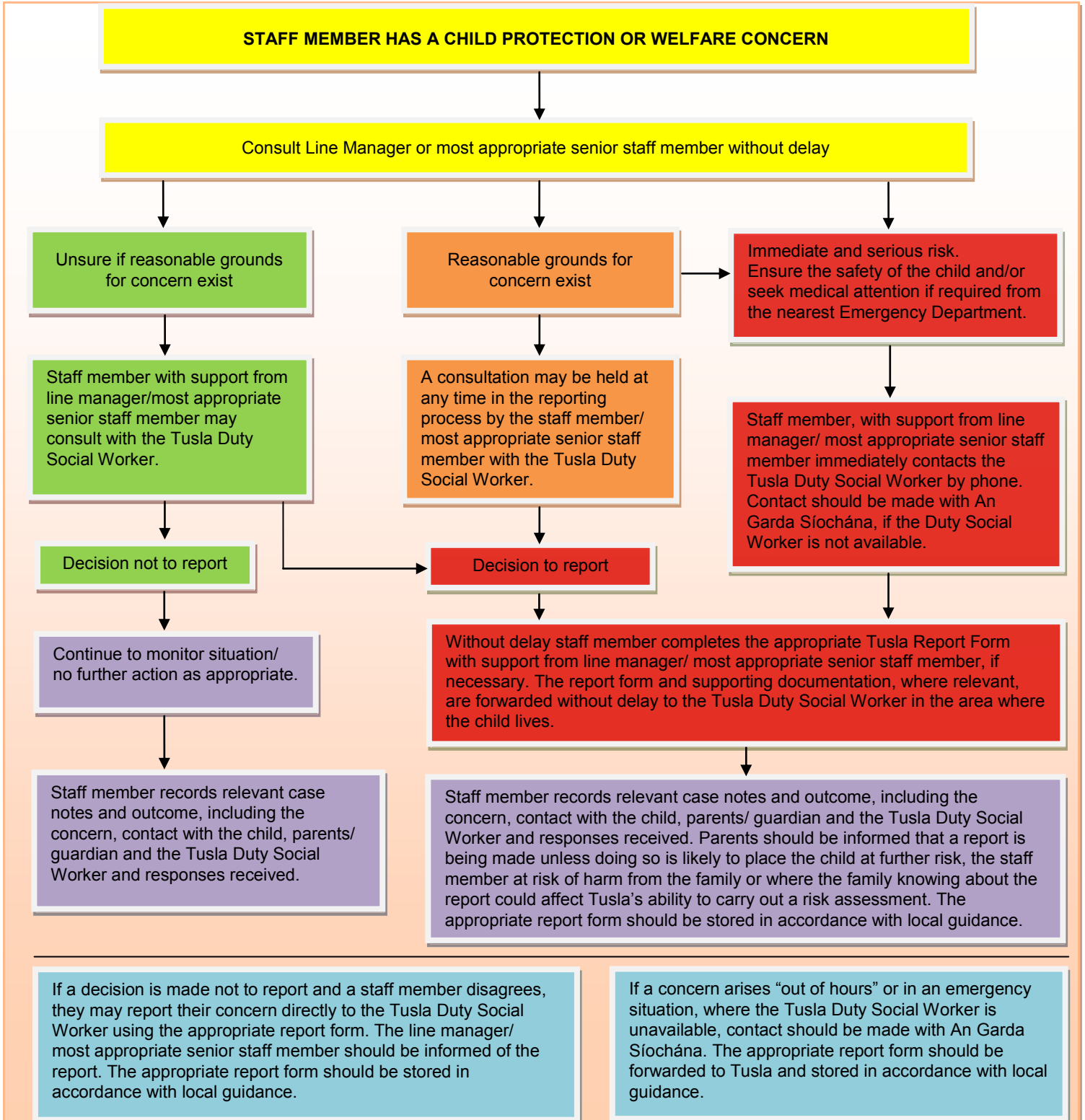


Putting CHILDREN FIRST



HSE Procedure for Reporting Child Protection and Welfare Concerns

All HSE staff irrespective of role, grade or profession have a duty to report suspected child abuse, neglect or welfare concerns to Tusla - Child and Family Agency.



If a decision is made not to report and a staff member disagrees, they may report their concern directly to the Tusla Duty Social Worker using the appropriate report form. The line manager/ most appropriate senior staff member should be informed of the report. The appropriate report form should be stored in accordance with local guidance.

If a concern arises "out of hours" or in an emergency situation, where the Tusla Duty Social Worker is unavailable, contact should be made with An Garda Síochána. The appropriate report form should be forwarded to Tusla and stored in accordance with local guidance.

Note: Mandated Persons need to consider if their concerns reach the threshold for making a mandated report.

Retrospective Abuse

In cases where adults disclose historical childhood abuse, a report should be made on a [Retrospective Abuse Report Form](#) to Tusla as the person subject to abuse allegations (alleged perpetrator) may pose a current risk to children;

However, if there are reasonable grounds for concern that a child may have been, is being or is at risk of being abused by the alleged perpetrator then a [Child Protection and Welfare Report Form](#) should be sent to Tusla;

- If a child is identified then the report should be made to Tusla in the area where the child lives.
- If no children are identified then the report should be made to Tusla in the area where the person subject to abuse allegations lives.

If you ignore what may be symptoms of abuse, it could result in ongoing harm to the child.

It is important that a report is made as soon as possible to Tusla and that no child is left at risk while a decision is being made.

If a child is at immediate risk and the [Duty Social Worker](#) in the Child and Family Agency cannot be contacted, please contact [An Garda Síochána](#) at any Garda Station.

Under [The Protection for Persons Reporting Child Abuse Act 1998](#), persons are protected by law if they in good faith report suspected child abuse to a Designated Officer of the HSE, Tusla or a member of An Garda Síochána.

Remember: Under HSE policy, all staff have an obligation to report child protection and welfare concerns. [Mandated persons](#) have statutory obligations to report concerns at or above a defined threshold under the Children First Act, 2015.

**Children
First**

National Guidance for the
Protection and Welfare
of Children

www.hse.ie/childrenfirst