

Appendix 14: Legislation for the Protection of Children and Vulnerable Adults/Adults at Risk– Republic of Ireland

Safeguarding Vulnerable Persons at Risk of Abuse National Policy & Procedures

<http://www.hse.ie/eng/services/publications/corporate/personsatriskofabuse.pdf>

Open Your Eyes to Elder Abuse

<http://www.hse.ie/elderabuse/>

There's no Excuse for Elder Abuse: provides answers to common questions about elder abuse and gives information on seeking help; and resources to view and listen to.

Childcare Act 1991¹

Sets out the obligations and responsibilities for the care of children who have been assaulted, ill-treated, neglected or sexually abused or who are at risk in Ireland.

Children First Act 2015

<http://www.oireachtas.ie/documents/bills28/bills/2014/3014/b30b14d.pdf>

Provides a statutory basis for the Children First Guidelines.

National Guidance for the Protection and Welfare of Children (2011)

<http://www.dcy.gov.ie/documents/Publications/ChildrenFirst.pdf>

Children First: Provides the strategic direction of child protection policy in Ireland and stresses that the safety and welfare of children is everyone's responsibility. It states what the general public should do if they are concerned about a child's safety and welfare.

Our Duty to Care

http://www.dcy.gov.ie/documents/publications/ODTC_Full_Eng.pdf

Guidance aimed at community and voluntary organisations that provide services for children. It offers guidance on the promotion of child welfare, the development of safe practices in work with children and how to recognise and respond to concerns of child abuse.

Our Duty to Care Factsheet:

http://www.dcy.gov.ie/documents/publications/ODTC_FactSheets_Eng.pdf

The Protection for Persons Reporting Child Abuse Act 1998

Provides immunity from civil liability to persons who report child abuse 'reasonably and in good faith' to designated officers of health boards or any member of An Garda Síochána.

Domestic Violence Act 1996

Gives health boards power to intervene to protect individuals and their children from violence.

The National Vetting Bureau (Children and Vulnerable Persons) Bill 2012

Provides a statutory framework for the vetting but not the barring of persons applying to work with children in Ireland. See Garda Vetting Unit: <http://www.garda.ie/Controller.aspx?Page=1535&Lang=1>

Further details of safeguarding legislations, policy and publications can be found at:

http://www.dcy.gov.ie/viewdoc.asp?fn=%2Fdocuments%2FChildren_First%2FChildrenFirstLegislation.htm&mn=chie&nID=1

¹The Child Care (Amendment) Act 2007 <http://www.irishstatutebook.ie/2007/en/act/pub/0026/index.html>
The Child Care (Amendment) Act 2011 <http://www.irishstatutebook.ie/2011/en/act/pub/0019/index.html>