



Putting
CHILDREN
FIRST



Dealing with Disclosures

Making a disclosure of abuse is a very difficult thing for a child or adult to do. Below are a number of key steps that will guide you in responding appropriately if you receive a disclosure of abuse.

Example of key steps:

- React calmly.
- Listen carefully and attentively.
- Take the child/adult seriously.
- Reassure the child/adult that they have taken the right action in talking to you.
- Do not ask leading questions.
- Do not promise to keep anything secret, but advise the child/adult you will only speak to the people who know how to respond to this situation.
- Do not express any opinions about the alleged abuser.
- Ensure that the child/adult understands the steps that will follow.

Useful links:

www.tusla.ie

[www.hse.ie/
childrenfirst](http://www.hse.ie/childrenfirst)

Following your conversation:

- Make a written record, with as much detail as possible.
- Treat the information confidentially and only share the information with your Line Manager (or DLP if you work in a HSE funded agency) and with Tusla – Child and Family Agency.