



Child Safeguarding Statement Carlow Emergency Doctors-on-Call CLG (“Caredoc”)

Caredoc is committed to ensuring that the children and young people who avail of our services are safe from harm.

Description of service and activities provided:

Caredoc provides a range of health services to children and adults in health facilities and communities across the country to include but not limited to; GP out of hours service, telephone triage, nursing and community intervention nursing service.

Caredoc Principles to safeguard children from harm:

The safety, welfare and development of children and young people are core objectives and key priorities of Caredoc. The following principles are informed by Children First Guidance and legislation and support our intention to keep children safe from harm:

- The best interests of the child should be paramount.
- The safety and welfare of children is everyone’s responsibility.
- Children have a right to be heard, listened to and to be taken seriously. Taking account of their age and understanding, they should be consulted and involved in all matters and decisions that may affect their lives.
- All children must be treated equally and have the right to be protected from discrimination, intolerance, harassment and bullying.
- Child protection is a multi-agency, multidisciplinary activity. Agencies and professionals must work together in the best interests of children.

Risk Assessment

This Child Safeguarding Statement is informed by an assessment of any potential for ‘harm’, to a child while availing of this service (‘harm’ as defined in the Children First Act 2015). Below is an amalgamated list of the main risks identified and the procedures in place for managing these risks.

Risk Category	Main procedures and controls in place to manage risk identified
1. Risk of harm to a child by a staff member or volunteer	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Caredoc Child Protection and Welfare Policy - HSE Trust in Care Policy - Protected Disclosures Procedures for the receipt and management of Protected Disclosures in Caredoc - Disciplinary Procedure for Employees of Caredoc - Caredoc Recruitment and Selection Procedures - Professional standards and registration requirements for Healthcare Professionals
2. Risk of harm to a child from a service user (adult or child), visitor or member of the public	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Signage re children requiring supervision - Open waiting room layouts to reduce risk to children from other services users and members of the public - Staff supervision and training - Incident Reporting procedure - Security Protocol
3. Risk of harm to a child due to a child protection or welfare concern not being recognised or reported by a staff member	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Statutory and Mandatory Training Policy for Caredoc Employees and Doctors includes ‘An Introduction to Children First’ eLearning module - Caredoc Child Protection and Welfare Policy and Reporting Procedure - Children First included in Caredoc Employee Induction - Disciplinary Procedure for Employees of Caredoc - Protected Disclosures Procedures for the receipt and management of Protected Disclosures in Caredoc

<p>4. Risk of harm to a child due to not implementing the Children First Act 2015 and/or related guidance or policies</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Designated Personnel assigned with the Responsibility of monitoring ongoing compliance -DLP Appointed -Ongoing support from the HSE Children First National Office -Compliance Checklist completed for HSE as a Section 39 funded service -Compliance monitoring by compliance department - Ongoing and up to date staff information, supervision and training -Legal and Administrative consequences for non reporting -Child First posters on display re Child Safety and Reporting Concerns -Child First Documentation available to all staff on ViClarity
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Procedures

This Child Safeguarding Statement has been developed in line with requirements under the Children First Act 2015, Children First National Guidance for the Protection and Welfare of Children (2017), HSE Guidance on Developing a Child Safeguarding Statement and Guidance issued by Tusla – Child and Family Agency. In addition to the policies and procedures named above, the following procedures support our intention to safeguard children:

- Procedure for the reporting of child protection or welfare concerns to Tusla;
- Procedure for the management of allegations of abuse or misconduct against staff
- Procedure for ongoing Child Protection and Welfare training
- Procedure for maintaining a list of the persons who are mandated persons;
- Procedure for provision of and access to child safeguarding training and information, including the identification of the occurrence of harm;
- Recruitment procedures to ensure the selection and recruitment of staff are suitable to work with children including Garda vetting procedures.
- Appointment of a Relevant Person
- Appointment of a Designated Liaison Person
- Provision of induction training to staff in relation to Caredoc’s Child Protection and Welfare Policy.
- Sharing of information about the child protection policy and good practices with patients and children
- Reviewing Caredoc’s Child Protection and Welfare Policy and practices on a regular basis

All queries about this statement, and any associated risk assessments, should be directed to the Relevant Person.

The Relevant Person appointed for the purpose of this Child Safeguarding Statement is:

Name: Tricia Cosgrave **Contact Details:** 0599138199

The Designated Liaison Person is:

Name: Mary Burke **Contact Details:** 0599138199

Implementation

We recognise that implementation is an ongoing process. This Child Safeguarding Statement will be reviewed every 24 months or as soon as practicable after there has been a material change in any matter to which the statement refers. This Child Safeguarding Statement will be reviewed in September 2027, or as soon as practicable after there has been a material change in any matter to which the statement refers.

Margaret Curran

Margaret Curran
Caredoc Corporate Manager
January 2026