

Child protection

This training will help you to

- understand your responsibilities when working with children as a volunteer or staff member
- understand the obligation to report all allegations against someone

We need to make sure that our organisation is safe for children

How should we do this?

We need to make sure that our organisation is safe for children

How should we do this?

- screen staff
- promote responsible behaviour
- respond to complaints
- report risk of harm

We need to make sure that our organisation is safe for children

How should we do this?

- screen staff
- promote responsible behaviour
- respond to complaints
- report risk of harm

Any new staff members need to have police checks, to make sure that no-one gets a job who will be dangerous to the kids

We need to make sure that our organisation is safe for children

How should we do this?

- screen staff
- promote responsible behaviour
- respond to complaints
- report risk of harm

Any new volunteers who work with kids need to sign a form saying they haven't committed any abuse crimes

We need to make sure that our organisation is safe for children

How should we do this?

- screen staff
- promote responsible behaviour
- respond to complaints
- report risk of harm

We need to make sure that our organisation is safe for children

How should we do this?

- screen staff
- promote responsible behaviour
- respond to complaints
- report risk of harm

We need to encourage everyone in the organisation to behave responsibly around children

We need to make sure that our organisation is safe for children

How should we do this?

- screen staff
- promote responsible behaviour
- respond to complaints
- report risk of harm

Kids need to feel like our workplace is safe for them and that the workers can be trusted

We need to make sure that our organisation is safe for children

How should we do this?

- screen staff
- promote responsible behaviour
- respond to complaints
- report risk of harm

Remember:
If a kid isn't safe at home, we might be the only ones they trust

We need to make sure that our organisation is safe for children

How should we do this?

- screen staff
- promote responsible behaviour
- respond to complaints
- report risk of harm

We might be the only ones they feel safe with

We need to make sure that our organisation is safe for children

How should we do this?

- screen staff
- promote responsible behaviour
- respond to complaints
- report risk of harm

We need to make sure that our organisation is safe for children

How should we do this?

- screen staff
- promote responsible behaviour
- respond to complaints
- report risk of harm

If someone makes a complaint about a staff member, we need to take it seriously

We need to make sure that our organisation is safe for children

How should we do this?

- screen staff
- promote responsible behaviour
- respond to complaints
- report risk of harm

Even if you don't think it is true

We need to make sure that our organisation is safe for children

How should we do this?

- screen staff
- promote responsible behaviour
- respond to complaints
- report risk of harm

Even if it is someone
you work with

We need to make sure that our organisation is safe for children

How should we do this?

- screen staff
- promote responsible behaviour
- respond to complaints
- report risk of harm

Even if you don't like
the person making the complaint

If you hear a complaint

- Ask the complainer if they want you to treat it seriously

If you hear a complaint

- Ask the complainer if they want you to treat it seriously
- If they do, write down what the complaint is

If you hear a complaint

- Ask the complainer if they want you to treat it seriously
- If they do, write down what the complaint is
- Take it to your boss

If you hear a complaint

- Ask the complainer if they want you to treat it seriously
 - If they do, write down what the complaint is
 - Take it to your boss
- (if it is a complaint about your boss, take it to someone on the management committee)

If you hear a complaint

- Ask the complainer if they want you to treat it seriously
- If they do, write down what the complaint is
- Take it to your boss
 - Let them talk directly with your boss if they want to

If you hear a complaint

- Ask the complainer if they want you to treat it seriously
- If they do, write down what the complaint is
- Take it to your boss
- Keep it confidential- do not talk about it with other staff

If you hear a complaint

- Ask the complainer if they want you to treat it seriously
- If they do, write down what the complaint is
- Take it to your boss
- Keep it confidential- do not talk about it with other staff
- Reassure the complainer that you respect their complaint

We need to make sure that our organisation is safe for children

How should we do this?

- screen staff
- promote responsible behaviour
- respond to complaints
- report risk of harm

This process sends a message to everyone that we will not cover up problems

We need to make sure that our organisation is safe for children

How should we do this?

- screen staff
- promote responsible behaviour
- respond to complaints
- report risk of harm

People who are paid to work with kids have to keep their eyes open for any kids who might be at risk of abuse

We need to make sure that our organisation is safe for children

How should we do this?

- screen staff
- promote responsible behaviour
- respond to complaints
- report risk of harm

How do we do this?

Who reports when a child is at risk of harm?

Any one can make a report of risk of harm.

The law says you must report risk of harm (mandatory reporter):

- If the grounds for making a report arise in the course of your work, and
- If in the course of your paid work you work with under 18 year olds or
- If you have a management position in which you directly supervise mandatory reporters

What is Child Abuse?

All children are either

- safe
- at risk of harm
- experiencing harm or
- experiencing serious harm

Any of these three
will need to be reported

What can we say to children when they disclose?

- Reassure the child/ young person that they have done the right thing
- Tell them you will be telling someone else, to try to keep them safe
- Do not ask for details- it is not your job to investigate.

What should we not say?

- Do not tell them you will make it better
- Do not tell them you can stop it happening
- Do not ask for details or 'investigate'- that is the police's job:
 - Your job is to report if you *reasonably think* it could be happening
 - You do not have to be completely sure

How do I make a report?

1. Discuss it with your supervisor
2. Read the DoCS handout for mandatory reporters
3. Phone 13 DOCS (133627)

The DoCS worker will need some details, but will help you with the report if you aren't sure about any of it.

If it is not something that needs to be reported, they will tell you.

What if it is an emergency?

- Dial 000 and report your concerns.

Do not tell the family where:

- this could mess up a police investigation;
- it could put the child or young person in danger, or lead to the child getting pressure to take back their statement;
- it could put you or someone else in danger.

Consider telling the family where:

- it would be helpful to involve them in making the report;
- a commitment has been made by the agency to tell the family if it is safe to do so;
- You have checked that your agency's policy supports this.