

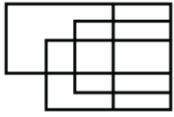


# Child Safeguarding Statement

<b>REVISION NUMBER</b>	1	<b>DOCUMENT OWNER</b>	Head of HR
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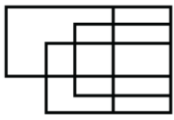
This document will be reviewed every two years or following changes to relevant legislation, significant changes in Screen Ireland or a request by the Executive, Audit & Risk Committee or Board.

<b>VERSION</b>	<b>DATE</b>	<b>REVISION AUTHOR</b>	<b>SUMMARY OF CHANGES</b>
1	24/11/23	HR Executive, Governance & Policy Executive	New policy created including legal review



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## **Child Safeguarding Statement for Screen Ireland, prepared in accordance with section 11 of the Children First Act, 2015**

### **Nature of Service and principles to safeguard children from harm**

Fís Éireann/Screen Ireland is the development agency for the Irish film, television and animation industry. Screen Ireland supports writers, directors and production companies by providing investment loans for the development, production and distribution of film, television, animation and shorts.

Here at Screen Ireland, we are committed to providing a safe environment for children, if and when they have contact with our organisation. The safety and welfare of children is a priority. We aim to comply with 'Children First: National Guidelines for Child Protection and Welfare of Children 2017' and we aim to ensure that we are in compliance with the provisions of the Children First Act 2015. To help us achieve this, we have a Child Protection Policy which contains procedures to guide our staff and authorised representatives when interacting with children. Every staff member of Screen Ireland has a responsibility and a duty of care to ensure that any child<sup>1</sup> interacting with Screen Ireland is safe and protected from harm. A copy of our Child Protection Policy is available on our website for members of the public and also on our stall portal for staff members. The policies and procedures outlined in this Child Safeguarding Statement apply to all team members including temporary and contract staff/placements.

The purpose of our Child Safeguarding Statement is to ensure, as far as practicable, and in line with the Children First Act 2015, that no harm is caused to any child while engaging in the relevant services or any work or activity provided by Screen Ireland. This Child Safeguarding Statement also outlines the principles and procedures that Screen Ireland has in place to protect children from harm while engaging in the relevant services that we provide, including on an occasional basis through work placement and careers events.

### **Relevant activities at Screen Ireland**

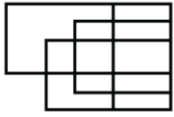
It should be noted that Screen Ireland are not responsible for direct services to children and would not in the course of its ordinary day to day work have contact with children. Screen Ireland's staff may interact with children on an occasional basis through work placement and careers events.

### **Risk Assessment**

In accordance with Section 11(1)(a) of the Children First Act 2015 (the "**Children First Act**"), we have undertaken a risk assessment of any potential harm to children availing of services and/or activities involving Screen Ireland.

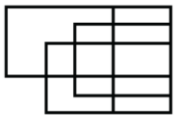
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<sup>1</sup> In accordance with Section 2 of the Children First Act 2015, a 'child' means a person under the age of 18 years, who is not or has not been married.



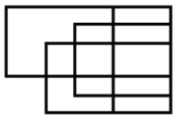
**Child Safeguarding Statement**

	<b>Activity</b>	<b>Staff Involved</b>	<b>Potential Risks</b>	<b>Mitigating Actions</b>
1.	Visiting a careers events for secondary school students	HR, Management, Employees Representing Screen Ireland	If staff are not fully aware of their responsibilities, not properly trained on how to engage with children, or due to other reasons, there may be inappropriate interaction with children resulting in harm or a breach of the Children First Act.	<p>All relevant staff who interact with children, will undergo children first training (as set out in our Child Protection Policy) and are obliged to review the Screen Ireland Child Protection Policy in detail to ensure a safe environment for children</p> <p>Where practicable, there must always be two adults with a child at all times. Alternatively, in order to ensure that no child will be alone with one adult, where more than one child is attending Screen Ireland for work experience/placement, two or more children should be accompanied by one adult at all times, as far as is practicable.</p>
2.	Placement Programmes for Transition, 5th Year or Leaving Cert Students	Staff working in Departments where placement/work experience opportunities take place	If Screen Ireland organise or facilitate work experience/placements for children and staff are not fully aware of their responsibilities, not properly trained on how to engage with children, or due to other reasons, there may be inappropriate interaction with children resulting in harm or a breach of the Children First Act.	<p>All relevant staff who interact with children, will undergo children first training (as set out in our Child Protection Policy) and are obliged to review the Screen Ireland Child Protection Policy in detail to ensure a safe environment for Children.</p> <p>Where practicable, there must always be two adults with a child at all times. Alternatively, in order to ensure that no child will be alone with one adult, where more than one child is attending Screen Ireland for work experience/placement, two or more children should be accompanied by one adult at all times, as far as is practicable.</p> <p>All children attending on placement/work experience will be introduced to the member of Screen Ireland staff who has responsibility for them over the course of the placement.</p> <p>All children attending on placement/work experience will be given a copy of the Child Safeguarding Statement, which will be explained to them in detail.</p> <p>All children attending on placement/work experience will be provided the contact details for a HR staff member who will be a contact person for them to raise any issues/concerns with.</p>



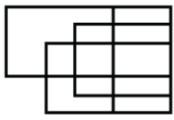
**Child Safeguarding Statement**

	<b>Activity</b>	<b>Staff Involved</b>	<b>Potential Risks</b>	<b>Mitigating Actions</b>
3.			If children taking part in Screen Ireland work experience/placements, were left alone on premises it may result in harm to the child and/or a breach of the Children First Act.	Children are not permitted to be alone on the premises and must, where at all practicable, be supervised by Screen Ireland staff at all times.
4.			If children taking part in Screen Ireland work experience/placements, had or obtained unsupervised access to the internet that could potentially result in harm to the child and/or a breach of the Children First Act.	<p>All staff supervising children will ensure that any child on placement will not be given unsupervised access to the internet.</p> <p>All staff will be made aware, through the Screen Ireland Child Protection Policy, of the need to ensure that any child on placement will not be given unsupervised access to the internet.</p>
5.	Any activity with interaction with children	Any staff member with interaction with children	If there is an incident involving a child that could constitute a breach of the Children First Act and a disclosure of harm is not recognised or reported to Tusla, where appropriate, the breach may not be properly investigated and addressed.	<p>Procedures in place for the reporting of harm or welfare concerns involving children to the Designated Person (as defined in Screen Ireland’s Child Protection Policy) and/or Tusla as appropriate, are set out in Screen Ireland’s Child Protection Policy which will be made available, as far as is practicable, to all members of staff and to teachers, parents or guardians of the children with whom Screen Ireland, their employees or authorised representatives come in direct contact.</p> <p>Procedures in place for the managing of reports or complaints made by a child against Screen Ireland staff are set out in our Child Protection Policy which will be made available, as far as is practicable, to all members of staff and to teachers, parents or guardians of the children with whom Screen Ireland, their employees or authorised representatives come in direct contact.</p> <p>The Child Safeguarding Statement and Child Protection Policy will be provided to all members of Screen Ireland staff as set out in Screen Ireland’s Child Protection Policy.</p> <p>The responsible manager of the department to which the child attending Screen Ireland on work experience/placement is assigned, will</p>



**Child Safeguarding Statement**

	Activity	Staff Involved	Potential Risks	Mitigating Actions
				<p>confirm to HR in advance of the placement that all staff within the unit have been made aware of the Reporting Guide contained within the Screen Ireland Child Protection Policy.</p> <p>When the placement concludes, the responsible manager of the department to which the child attending Screen Ireland on work experience/placement is assigned, will ensure that if any disclosures were made by a child, that they have been appropriately passed on to the Designated Person (as defined in Screen Ireland’s Child Protection Policy) who is responsible for ensuring that the disclosure has been reported to Tusla where appropriate and in accordance with the Screen Ireland Child Protection Policy.</p>
6.			<p>If staff are not fully aware of their responsibilities, not properly trained on how to engage with children, or due to other reasons, there could potentially be inappropriate communication or contact with children resulting in harm or a breach of the Children First Act.</p>	<p>Parents and/or a teacher and/or the Designated Person (as described in Screen Ireland’s Child Protection Policy) will be copied on any communication exchanges with the child during or after the activity.</p> <p>Screen Ireland staff should not communicate with a child they have met through their workplace using text messages, Facebook, or any other forms of social media. Phone calls on personal mobiles should also be avoided.</p> <p>Communication regarding career events will go through a designated adult point of contact.</p> <p>As far as is practicable, any phone calls with children must have two adults on the call at all times and only take place at the consent of the parent or guardian.</p>
7.			<p>Inappropriate or unauthorised photos/videos could be taken of children by Screen Ireland Staff or authorised representatives of Screen Ireland.</p>	<p>Appropriate consent, as set out in Screen Ireland’s Child Protection Policy, must be obtained by the Screen Ireland staff member or authorised representative in advance from the child’s parent or guardian.</p>



The policies and procedures identified above as part of our risk assessment are included in further detail within our Child Protection Policy. As part of this, we have in place a clear structure for the oversight of safeguarding policy and practice in Screen Ireland. These include a means of ensuring that all concerns, incidents, or allegations are fully recorded and communicated to the statutory authorities as set out in the Children First Act 2015. This Child Safeguarding Statement is displayed on our website and can be made available on request. Screen Ireland Human Resources Unit will ensure that all staff are also provided with a copy of the Screen Ireland Child Safeguarding Statement and the Child Protection Policy.

## Procedures

Our 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), and TUSLA's 'Child Safeguarding: A Guide for Policy, Procedure and Practice'.

In addition to the procedures listed in the Risk Assessment above, the following procedures support our intention to safeguard children while they are availing of our service:

- Procedure for the management of allegations of abuse or misconduct against staff of a child availing of our service (set out in our Child Protection Policy).
- Procedure for the provision of and access to child safeguarding training and information, including the identification of the occurrence of harm (set out in our Child Protection Policy).
- Procedure for the reporting of child protection or welfare concerns to TUSLA (set out in our Child Protection Policy).
- There are no "mandated persons" for the purposes of the Children First Act 2015 in Screen Ireland.

## Implementation

Screen Ireland is committed to the effective safeguarding of all children engaging in activities and events at Screen Ireland, as set out in our Child Safeguarding Statement.

Our Child Safeguarding Statement will be reviewed every two years or more often, if necessary, in light of any relevant legal or policy amendments. A copy of our Child Safeguarding Statement is displayed on our website and further copies can be provided to parents, guardians, TUSLA and members of the public upon request.

The Designated Person (as defined in Screen Ireland's Child Protection Policy) and Screen Ireland staff having substantial access to children have completed TUSLA's eLearning programme on the Children First Act 2015.

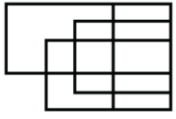
### Signed:

*Deirdre Finnegan*

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CEO

For all queries, please contact the Head of HR who is the Designated Person under Part 2 of the Children First Act 2015 for Screen Ireland.



**Fís Éireann**  
Screen Ireland

## **Child Safeguarding Statement**