

**Civil Defence Branch, Department of Defence**  
**Child Safeguarding Statement – May 2023**

Civil Defence (Cosaint Shibhialta) is a statutory volunteer-based organisation with a nationwide footprint, established in 1951. In central Government terms, responsibility for the organisation falls under the aegis of the Department of Defence. At a local level, Civil Defence is managed by Civil Defence Officers employed by each local authority. There are approximately 2,500 Civil Defence volunteers.

**Services that Civil Defence provides for children**

1. Civil Defence provides pre-hospital medical cover at a wide range of community, local authority, sporting and charitable events across Ireland.
2. Civil Defence is involved in the evacuation of persons and the establishment and operation of temporary rest centres.
3. Civil Defence may be involved in providing instruction in first aid to teenagers.
4. Civil Defence is regularly involved in searching for missing persons of all ages.

Civil Defence has a Child Protection Policy in place with detailed procedures for the protection of children, volunteers and the Civil Defence organisation.

**Risk Assessment**

1. Inappropriate behaviour by Civil Defence members treating child casualties.

*The Child Protection Policy states that volunteers treating child casualties must work in pairs or alternatively ensure that another adult is present.*

*All Civil Defence members must undergo Garda vetting and Child Protection awareness training.*

2. Inappropriate behaviour by Civil Defence members during first aid instruction.

*The Child Protection Policy states that another adult must be present at all times when children are being instructed and that children should not act as casualties.*

*All Civil Defence members must undergo Garda vetting and Child Protection awareness training.*

3. Inappropriate behaviour by Civil Defence members during the evacuation of persons or during the operation of a temporary rest centre.

*All Civil Defence members must undergo Garda vetting and Child Protection awareness training.*

**Procedures**

- 1) The Civil Defence Child Protection Policy is available on [www.civildefence.ie](http://www.civildefence.ie).
- 2) The Child Protection Policy sets out procedures for managing allegations of abuse or

misconduct against members of Civil Defence.

3) All members of Civil Defence must undergo periodic Garda vetting, per the Civil Defence Garda Vetting Policy.

4) All members of Civil Defence must complete Child Protection awareness training every three years.

5) There is a Designated Liaison Person for Child Protection in each Civil Defence Unit.

6) Mandated persons in Civil Defence include Emergency Medical Technicians, Paramedics and Advanced Paramedics. It may occasionally include the manager of an emergency accommodation facility.

7) The person responsible for the implementation of Child Protection procedures in each Civil Defence Unit is the Civil Defence Officer.

### **Implementation**

We recognise that implementation is an ongoing process. Civil Defence is committed to the implementation of this Child Safeguarding Statement and our Child Protection Policy to keep children safe from harm while availing of Civil Defence services. This Child Safeguarding Statement will be reviewed in April 2025, or as soon as practicable after there has been a material change in any matter to which the statement refers.

For queries please contact the Assistant Principal, Policy & Planning Section, Civil Defence Branch, Department of Defence, Benamore, Roscrea, Co. Tipperary.