



Child Safeguarding Statement

Since 1997, we have worked with LGBTQ+ people, including adolescents and children, to create a vibrant and safe space for LGBTQ+ people, groups & organisations that is inclusive of the diversity within our communities. As part of that work, we strive to ensure that children and young people who access Outhouse are safe from harm.

Outhouse occasionally engages with children and young people through directly and indirectly hosting youth-focused events, peer support groups, and community activities. Children may also be present as part of family participation in wider LGBTQ+ community events. All activities involving children are supervised by trained staff or volunteers.

This statement has been developed not only to safeguard children and young people who access the centre but also families, staff, and volunteers engaged by Outhouse. This document is based on the following:

- Children First: National Guidance for the Protection and Welfare of Children
- Guidance on Developing a Child Safeguarding Statement
- Child Safeguarding: A Guide for Policy, Procedure, and Practice

As an organisation, we:

- recognise that the protection and welfare of children are of paramount importance, regardless of other considerations;
- comply fully with our statutory obligations under the Children First Act 2015 and other relevant legislation relating to the protection and welfare of children;
- co-operate with the relevant statutory authorities concerning child protection and welfare matters;
- adopt safe practices to minimise the possibility of harm or accidents happening to children and protect staff and volunteers from the

necessity to take unnecessary risks that may leave themselves open to accusations of abuse or neglect; and

- respect in full confidentiality requirements in dealing with child protection matters.
- acknowledge our responsibilities under the Children First Act 2015 in relation to mandated reporting and ensure mandated persons understand their reporting duties.
- commit to providing an inclusive, respectful environment for all children and young people, including LGBTQ+ children and the children of LGBTQ+ parents, and ensuring that discriminatory behaviour is not tolerated.

This Safeguarding Statement is displayed prominently on the Outhouse website, in our premises and at locations where we run events and services.

This Safeguarding Statement applies to all staff, interns, volunteers, board members, and individuals accessing Outhouse and events hosted by us. This Statement applies when working on any premises utilised by the organisation for its activities and when working on behalf of or representing Outhouse.

Risk Assessment

Outhouse maintains a risk register, which is regularly reviewed. As part of this, we have assessed potential harm to a child while accessing the community centre.

Below is a list of identified areas and the mitigation measures selected to address the risks:

	Risk Identified	Mitigation
1	Outhouse's personnel's lack of knowledge around internal Child Protection practices and procedures.	Child Protection Policy, Staff Handbook, Mandatory Child Safeguarding Training
2	Users of the centre are unaware of our Child Protection Policy and Procedures.	Safeguarding Statement is published on our website and displayed prominently in the centre.

3	Lack of knowledge of personnel on how to manage an allegation of abuse made by a child.	Induction process, child safeguarding training, and child protection policy.
4	Lack of knowledge of Outhouse personnel of expected behaviour while interacting with patrons.	Staff handbook and induction process. Outhouse guidance document on boundaries and confidentiality with patrons.
5	Risk of harm due to inadequate recruitment procedures.	Recruitment procedures are in place.
6	One-to-one contact between staff/volunteers and children	Boundaries and Confidentiality Guidance, Open-Door Practices, and Our House Etiquette.
7	Use of images/video of children at events.	Consent procedures, photography policy.
8	Unaccompanied minors accessing the centre.	Boundaries and Confidentiality Guidance.
9	Third-party groups using rooms for activities involving children.	Requirement as part of booking terms and conditions to have their own Safeguarding Statement in place.

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 our risk assessment, the following procedures support our commitment to safeguarding children while they are availing of the centre:

- Procedure for the management of allegations of abuse or misconduct against workers/ volunteers of a child using the centre;
- Procedure for the safe recruitment and selection of staff and volunteers who work in the centre;

- Procedure for provision of and access to child safeguarding training and information, including the identification of the occurrence of harm;
- Procedure for the reporting of child protection or welfare concerns to TUSLA;
- Procedure for maintaining a list of personnel employed or volunteering with the centre who are mandated persons;
- Procedure for appointing a relevant person.

All procedures listed are available upon request.

Implementation

We recognise that implementation is an ongoing process. Outhouse LGBTQ+ Centre is committed to implementing this Child Safeguarding Statement and the procedures that support it. Monitoring of safeguarding practice will take place through supervision, incident reviews, and regular updates to our risk assessments.

This Child Safeguarding Statement will be reviewed every 2 years or as soon as practical after a material change in any matter to which the statement refers.

Our Designated Liaison Person (DLP) and Relevant Person, as required by the Children First Act 2015, is our CEO, Oisín O'Reilly, ceo@outhouse.ie or 01 873 4999.

Signed:

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Séamus McManus
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Séamus McManus - Chairperson of the Board

Dated:

03 December 2025 | 5:37 PM GMT

Revision History

Revision	Date of Release	Purpose
Initial Draft	November 2022	Initial Release
Version 2	November 2025	Delayed first review of the statement, updated to reflect identified risks and mitigation measures and to account for changes in day-to-day operations.