

# HAVE YOU READ THE HSE CHILD PROTECTION AND WELFARE POLICY?

“I am a Doctor working in an Emergency Department. One night, we treated a lady experiencing acute mental health difficulties; she had been in a car accident. The paramedics told me that there was a baby seat in the back of the car but the woman was the sole occupant.

When I rang the woman’s next of kin (her mother) I learned that she was a single parent to a 10 month old baby boy. The woman was unable to confirm the whereabouts of the baby.

I rang the Gardaí in the area where the woman lived and explained the situation. The Gardaí checked her home and found the baby in his cot. Thankfully he was in good health. Because the woman had left her baby at home alone, I felt that I had reasonable grounds for concerns so I sent a report to Tusla - Child and Family Agency.

I am glad that I was aware of my child safeguarding responsibilities under HSE Child Protection and Welfare Policy and thought to consider the safety and wellbeing of my patient’s child.”



## You could make all the difference

**Stay Informed:** Know your child safeguarding responsibilities.

**Be Vigilant:** Always be on the lookout for child protection or welfare concerns.

**Take Action:** Follow the [HSE Child Protection and Welfare Policy](#) and report reasonable grounds for concern to Tusla.



For more information go online and visit  
[www.hse.ie/childrenfirst](http://www.hse.ie/childrenfirst)