

# DOES MANDATED REPORTING APPLY TO YOU?

“I am a Public Health Nurse. I was seeing a baby for his three month check one day when I noticed a mark at the top of his ear. It could have been a bruise or a pinch; I wasn’t sure, but it was an unusual place to find such a mark. When I asked his parents what had caused it, their reaction was unsettling. They gave possible explanations, like a toy fell on him, the car seat clipped him, his cousin scratched him, and then, before I knew it, they insisted that they had to leave and were gone out the door with the baby. I hadn’t even finished my examination. I was left feeling very concerned.

I knew, from Children First training, that if I had reasonable grounds for concern I should make a report to Tusla - Child and Family Agency. I also knew that as a Mandated Person I had to consider whether my concerns met the threshold for making a Mandated Report\*.

I had a feeling, given what I had seen and been told, that the mark was not accidental. I was concerned that the baby had been harmed by someone, and could be at risk of ongoing harm. I phoned the Tusla duty Social Worker to discuss my concerns and I sent a Mandated Report.

I later learned, at a Case Conference organised by Tusla that a number of other bruises, marks and evidence of healing fractures had been found when the baby was further examined. I was so glad that I had reported.”



## You could make all the difference

\*Mandated Persons have a legal obligation to report the ‘harm’ of children to Tusla - Child and Family Agency.

“harm” means, in relation to a child— (a) assault, ill-treatment or neglect of the child in a manner that seriously affects or is likely to seriously affect the child’s health, development or welfare, sexual abuse of the child.

Check Schedule 2 of the [Children First Act 2015](#) to find out if you are a Mandated Person.

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

