

## Child Safeguarding Statement — Rainbows Ireland (Stand-Alone Centres)

In accordance with the requirements of the Children First Act 2015 and Children First: National Guidance for the Protection and Welfare of Children (2017), as amended by the 2019 Online Safety Addendum and the 2025 Addendum on Adult Retrospective Disclosures, Rainbows Ireland has agreed the Child Safeguarding Statement set out below.

### 1. Service Details & Scope

**Provider:** Rainbows Ireland (National Charity)

**Address:** Unit 11, Base Enterprise Centre CLG, 15 Damastown Road Mulhuddart D15 NX4W

**Phone:** +353 (0)1 473 4175 | **Email:** ask@rainbowsireland.ie

**Scope:** This Statement applies to employed staff at the National Office and registered volunteers delivering programmes in Rainbows Stand-Alone Centres only. It explicitly excludes Public/School/Shared-Partnership Centres, which operate under separate governance and safeguarding policies.

**Issue date:** 23 Feb 2026 | not later than 31 Mar 2028

### 2. Nature of the Service & Principles to Safeguard Children

Rainbows Ireland provides peer group support for children and young people (typically ages 7–16) who have experienced significant loss through bereavement or parental separation. Groups are facilitated by trained volunteers using structured programme materials in Stand-Alone Centres. The welfare of the child is paramount; no secrecy guarantees are given; information is shared on a need-to-know basis to protect children.

### 3. Risk Assessment of Harm — Summary

Rainbows Ireland has carried out a written assessment of any potential for harm to a child while availing of our service. The table below summarises the key risks and the procedures in place to manage those risks. A detailed risk assessment is available on request.

<b>Risk of Harm Identified</b>	<b>Procedures/Measures in Place to Manage Risk</b>
Unsuitable person gains access to children as staff/volunteer	Structured recruitment; two-person interviews; two written references with phone verification; GNVB eVetting prior to engagement and re-vetting;

	overseas police clearance where relevant; identity verification; role-specific induction.
Inadequate supervision; boundary breaches; one-to-one unsupervised work	Two facilitators present at all times; no one-to-one delivery of programme materials; session plans; coordinator oversight; weekly formation/debriefing; clear Code of Behaviour; immediate escalation to DLP.
Unsafe premises or poor security; unauthorised access	Venue risk checks pre-programme; sign-in/out; controlled room access; safeguarding posters visible; first-aid kit and incident reporting; accessible facilities.
Digital contact, images or recordings; social media contact	No phones in sessions; no photos/recordings; no social-media contact with service users; communications via National Office channels only
Poor handling/sharing of sensitive information	Factual contemporaneous notes; secure storage; limited access (DLP/CEO/authorised); 21-year retention; GDPR/Data Protection compliance; proportionate sharing with Tusla/AGS.
Child collected by unauthorised person; late/non-collection	Documented collection arrangements; ID verification as needed; late/non-collection procedure; incident recording; designated waiting area and supervision to handover.
Allegations against workers/volunteers not managed safely/fairly	Dual process: child-safety/reporting to Tusla/AGS led by DLP and separate internal HR/volunteer procedure led by CEO/Board; protective measures proportionate to risk; fair procedures; right to representation.
Venue-specific risks not identified when using external facilities	Venue risk-check template in coordinator pack; local procedures reviewed prior to programme start.

#### 4. Procedures to Manage Risk and Keep Children Safe

- Responding to and reporting child protection and welfare concerns (including mandated reports, joint reports and emergency actions).

- Responding to allegations of abuse against workers/volunteers (dual process: child-safety/reporting and internal HR/volunteer process).
- Safe recruitment and selection (including GNVB vetting, identity and reference checks).
- Provision of child safeguarding information and training (Tusla eLearning, in-house module, DLP/DDLP training).
- Maintaining an internal list of Mandated Persons (for employed roles falling within Schedule 2 of the Children First Act).
- Appointment of a Relevant Person as first point of contact in respect of this Statement.

## 5. How to Report a Child Protection or Welfare Concern

Internal pathway (Stand-Alone Centres): Facilitator → Centre Coordinator → Designated Liaison Person (DLP). The DLP assesses reasonable grounds and mandated thresholds, consults Tusla where needed, and submits reports via the Tusla Web Portal. In emergencies or where Tusla cannot be contacted, An Garda Síochána is contacted immediately; a portal submission follows.

Parents/guardians are informed unless doing so would place the child/reporter at risk or impair assessment.

Dedicated Contact Points for Tusla Duty Social Work are maintained in each centre's safeguarding folder.

Adult retrospective disclosures of childhood abuse: the DLP will consider any current risk to an identifiable child and submit a Retrospective Abuse Report Form (RARF) via the portal where required.

Criminal Justice (Withholding of Information) 2012: workers/volunteers must disclose to An Garda Síochána information that may materially assist in the apprehension, prosecution or conviction for specified offences against a child.

## 6. Implementation and Display

This Statement is implemented through induction, training, supervision, routine communications and monitoring. It will be displayed prominently at each Stand-Alone Centre and at the National Office, provided to parents/guardians on request, and published on our website.

## 7. Key Roles and Contact Details

**Designated Liaison Person (DLP):** Geraldine Kelly, CEO Rainbows Ireland

**Deputy DLP:** Ilona Karsanova; Fiona Byrne

**Relevant Person** (s.8 Children First Act): Geraldine Kelly, CEO Rainbows Ireland (or nominated senior manager)

**Mandated Persons:** Maintained internally for employed roles that are mandated under Schedule 2 (volunteers acting solely as volunteers are not mandated by virtue of that role)

## 8. Review and Sign-off

This Child Safeguarding Statement will be reviewed within 24 months or earlier if there has been a material change in any matter to which it refers.

Signed for and on behalf of Rainbows Ireland:

Signed  | CEO Rainbows Ireland | Designated Liaison Person

Date 2<sup>nd</sup> March 2026

Signed  | Chairperson, Board of Management

Date 2<sup>nd</sup> March 2026

**For queries, please contact - Geraldine Kelly**  
**[ask@rainbowsireland.ie](mailto:ask@rainbowsireland.ie)**