

ALLAWAH COMMUNITY CHURCH CHILD SAFE CHILD FRIENDLY POLICY

REVISION 2
Dated 25th February 2018

Phone: (02) 9626 0055 Mobile: 0400 260 077 Email: brad@cccaustnsw.com



Introduction

As a church we honour God's name by providing a Child Safe Child Friendly environment. We want children and young people (Under 18 year olds) who participate in our programs to have a safe and happy experience. We honour God by supporting and respecting our children, young people, staff, volunteers and students.

Title	This policy is called the Allawah Community Church Child Safe Child Friendly Policy.
Introduction	This policy guides staff, volunteers and students on how to behave with children in their
	supervision. This policy focuses on how we can promote kid's participation in our church
	and make it safe for them.
Support kids'	Allawah Community Church supports the active participation of kids in our church. We
participation	respect and value children and will provide a safe environment where they can learn and
	develop.
Support Staff,	1. We promote respect, fairness and consideration for all staff, volunteers and students.
Volunteers and	2. We have appointed a Child Safety Officer who will provide support and advice to our
students	workers.
	3. All new staff, volunteers and students will receive a copy of the Child Safe Child
	Friendly Policy including our Code of Conduct and our How to Deal with Complaints
	process.
	4. All staff, volunteers and students will be trained yearly in our child protection
	procedures.
	5. Our Child Safety Officer is Maru Gomez
	See Codes of Conduct
Recruitment	1. Allawah Community Church will appoint staff and volunteers to children related
	positions if staff and volunteers meet our recruitment and screening requirements.
	2. These requirements are
	a. The person must have appropriate skills to meet the Job description.
	b. The person must be cleared by the WWCC.
	c. The person must have 3 written character / integrity references confirming their
	suitability to work with children. These references are to be followed up by a
	verbal inquiry by the recruiting officer.
	d. The person will be interviewed by the recruiting team / officer for suitability for
	position.
	See Recruitment forms.
Child Safe	The Leaders of our children's programs are to provide a safe environment for their planned
Programs - Risk	activities. This will include
Management	1. A Risk Management assessment of planned activities and implement strategies to
	reduce any significant risk.
	2. Recording of any incidents during the program
	3. Reviewing incidents to ensure procedures are implemented to reduce risk of incident
	reoccurring.
	4. All incidents with Children should be reviewed with Child Safety Officer. (To ensure no
	patterns are occurring)
	See Risk Management and Incident Reporting forms.
Dealing with	1. What we Believe
Complaints	a. Everyone in our Church should be confident that complaints will be dealt with
	honestly and fairly.
	b. Everyone in our Church should be confident in reporting inappropriate behaviour
	around kids.
	c. Everyone in our Church should report any concerns about the safety or welfare of a
	child or young person immediately.
	2. All complaints should be reported. This includes
	a. Disclosure of abuse
	b. Inappropriate behaviour around children
	c. Suspicion of abuse or harm to a child.
	3. All complaints must be reported to the Child Safety person Name: Maru Gomez Contact Number: 0434 394 920
	A child or young person or any staff member, volunteer or student can make a
	complaint, or raise a concern, directly to the Child Safety Officer.
	4. The Child Safety Officer will take the following actions:
	a. Listen to the person making the complaint and make a record of the complaint



	using the "Complaint Record Form". b. Assess the complaint and if required report the complaint to Community Services and other appropriate authorities if warranted. (i.e. Police) Inform everyone involved in the complaint of the requirement to make this report. c. If the complaint involves inappropriate behaviour and a breach of the Code of Conduct, the Church Leaders will need to take action in accordance with internal discipline procedures. 5. The Church must provide details to the Office of the Children's Guardian (WWCC people) of any staff, volunteer or student who has been the subject of completed employment proceedings involving; a. Reportable conduct; or b. Acts of violence committed by them in the presence of a child. Reportable conduct is: i. Any sexual offence or sexual misconduct, committed against, with or in the presence of a child (including a child pornography offence); or ii. Any assault, ill treatment or neglect of a child; or iii. Any behaviour that causes psychological harm to a child; whether or not, in any case, with the consent of the child. You do not need to report conduct that is reasonable for the discipline, management and care of children or if it was found the conduct did not occur.
	If you require help in determining what action is required or would like additional help, please contact the CCCAust(NSW) Child Protection Liaison Officer Jim Kelly JDK@owenhodge.com.au or 0417 730 299
Communication	1. The Church will remind the children's workers of it Child Safe Child Friendly policies
	and procedures on a yearly basis.
	2. All new children workers, volunteers and students will be taken through the churches Child Safe Child Friendly policies before they commence work.
	3. Kids and parents joining our programs will receive a copy of the "Parent's and kids
	Guide to Child Protection at Allawah Church."
Review	The policy and guidelines will be reviewed every two years and incorporate comments and
	suggestions from staff, volunteers, parents and the leadership team.



Codes of conduct

Expectations for Staff, Volunteers and Students

As a church we honour God's name by holding values that honour and respect other people. Jesus is the ultimate example of someone who has given of himself for the good of others.

We value the following acceptable practices

- We will treat everyone with respect and honesty
- We value active listening to children
- We will be mindful of our responsibility for care. Below are ways in which we are recognising methods that will help us provide appropriate care;
 - We will plan appropriate activities to the age or developmental needs of the children;
 - We will protect ourselves and children by not being alone with them
 - We will be mindful of the need for appropriate boundaries when comforting or sharing with children and young people;
 - If a child approaches to hug we will turn the child into a sideways hug not a frontal hug;
 - We will sit beside a child when reading a book and not have the child on our knee;
 - We will hold hands for reassurance only, only if required;
 - We will use an open hand on the child's back or shoulder to comfort if the child is hurt or in distress;
 - We will ensure adult supervision at all times, not leaving children unattended, and will call for assistance we must leave the group;
 - We will use a buddy system if a child needs to leave the group for an appropriate reason;
 - We will only use appropriate forms of discipline and never use physical discipline on a child
 - We will use language that honours children (no crude language or jokes)
 - o We will only transport children when there is adequate supervision
 - o We will protect children by not having them in our homes without suitable supervision
 - We will not dispense medication to a child without parent/ guardian guidelines and consent;
 - We will be sensitive to activities that could be construed as grooming, (showing favouritism, giving gifts to individual children, spending time alone with a child, communicating with individual children via social media)
 - We will be sensitive to bullying or unhealthy dominance within a group
- We will keep parents / guardians informed and gain permission for activities that are not part of the normal routine of the programmed activity;
- We will be alert and watch for strangers who may enter our programmed areas and act to ensure the safety of the children.
- Alcohol and illegal drugs and those affected by these are not allowed to participate in any of our children's activities.
- We will ensure adequate supervision during programmed activities. We are committed to the following ratios

1:3 for 0-1 year olds

1:5 for 2-6 year olds

1:8 for 7-12 year olds

1:15 for 13-17 year olds

There will always be at least **two adults present** when running child related church activity.

We will act and report incidents and suspicions of abuse to the Child Safety Officer.



- We will maintain our equipment to ensure they are in good working order.
- We will maintain confidentiality to protect those involved, to stop gossip but will follow policy and legal procedures to ensure the correct outcomes are achieved for the protection of children.

Effective behaviour management

In any children's program, we will need to deal with children who misbehave and disrupt the program for other children. It is not acceptable to use physical force to discipline a child unless the child is causing physical harm to self or another child. It is then acceptable to use reasonable force to protect those involved.

Fostering safe and appropriate behaviour begins with positive and appropriate relationships with children and young people. It is important to take the time to outline and reinforce the expectations of safe and respectful participation in activities. This should be done efficiently and without ambiguity.

Positive relationships are those within which children and young people know they are valued; that they will be listened to; and if it is required given wise and careful counsel.

Often a child's behaviour is a reflection of their life circumstances. It is important to ensure they have their need to be heard satisfied before a situation is acted upon. Conversations can assist a child to recognise and accept their responsibility within a given situation. If a child acknowledges they have been in error then an apology is usually enough. If a child does not recognise they are in error, a brief timeout session might be in order. Similarly if children behave inappropriately due to excitement a brief time out is also usually effective.

Time out should be in view of others to ensure the child's safety and to monitor their reactions.

If there is a need to address negative behaviour or correct a child try to remain calm and do not personalise the situation. Ensure the safety of others and the appropriateness of the time and place for dealing with the issue.

All corrective behaviour should be conducted sensitively and with the intent for the child to accept responsibility and to then resume an activity or continue positive relationships. Remain calm and in control or call for assistance if you are angry.

Try to outline the desired behaviour and reinforce the benefits of such rather than outline the negative behaviours and threatening consequences.

Should more than one person be involved in a situation, then work only with the facts not past experiences or perceptions.

If a disruption continues or if a child places them or another individual at risk of harm then the child needs to be separated and the parent may need to be contacted and informed without imposing guilt or blame. It is important to maintain positive relationships with parents as much as possible.



Expectations for Children

For Children participating in our programmes we would expect the following behaviours and attitudes

- That they be respectful and friendly to everyone and welcome new children joining the group
- That they play by the rules
- That they are free to raise any concerns or worries with the leaders
- They will not bully others
- They will not leave the group without approval or supervision from the leaders.

What happens if I break the Code of Conduct?

If the incident brings Children or Young people into a position of "risk of significant harm", then the incident will be recorded on our Complaint form by our Child Safety Officer and the information passed onto Community Services for Investigation and The Children's Guardian (WWCC managers). The incident may also be report to the Police if the Child is still in immediate danger. The Church will then act in accordance with actions that ensure the safety of other children and may remove you from that and other ministries as they see fit. If appropriate the church will provide support to help you rectify the offending behaviour which may involve counselling or the like.

If the incident is not reportable, then the church will provide help and assistance to you to modify the offending behaviour. This may mean standing you down from the ministry or other ministries until the Child Safety Officer and church leadership are convinced the inappropriate behaviour has been modified in your life.



Staff recruitment and management template forms



Recruitment & Selection Template for Allawah Community Church Form 01

Recruitment & Selection Checklist

Recruitment

1.	A Job description for the proposed position has been written.	
2.	Advertise the position	
	The position has been advertised with an appropriate application form	
	Selection	
3.	The applications have been assessed and candidate chosen to interview.	
4.	We have nominated a selection panel to review the applicants and interview them. This selection panel should include the team leader or representative and the Children Safety Officer.	
5.	We have interviewed the applicant and are happy with the outcomes. Some appropriate questions may include	
	a) What involvement / experience in the past have you had with children / young people?b) Why do you want to be part of this ministry?	
	c) Why do you think it is important to keep children safe?	
	d) Have you seen our Child Safe Policy and do you have any questions?	
	e) Have you ever been known by any other name?	
	f) Have you ever been in a situation where a complaint of harm against a child / young person has been made against you?	
	Background checking	
6.	We have checked 3 referees for the applicant and are happy with the results	
7.	We have a WWCC number for the application (if they are over 18 years old) and this has been verified on our WWCC portal.	
	Appointment	
8.	The applicant has been informed of the outcome and any probation period.	
9.	For an employee, they have signed an employment contract.	
10.	The applicant has been inducted through the Child Protection Course.	



Job Description Template for Allawah Community Church Form 02

Job Description

Job	b Title:						
1.	Duties of this jo	bb .					
2.	Context:						
		tion of your church and its activities)					
3.	Objectives of the						
		our key objectives)					
4.	Accountability						
		person report to?)					
5.	Conditions of a						
		full time / part time / voluntary)					
	(Number of hou	·					
	(Probation perio	•					
6.	Performance C						
		asuring tools to help you determine the suitability of the candidate)					
	Qualifications	(Do you have any specific requirements you expect the candidates to have? Membership,					
		certificates, accreditation)					
	Knowledge /	(first aid, etc.)					
	Skills						
	Experience	(Do we require the applicant to have past experience in this work and how much?)					
	Personal	(Do we require communication skills, good team-work, flexibility, creativity, sense of					
	Qualities	humor, organisational skills?)					
	Availability	(Will the applicant be required to attend meetings or work outside the normal hours?)					
	Other	(Driver's License)					
	Requirements						
	Policy	Allawah Community Church supports the active participation of kids in our church. We					
	Expectations	respect and value children and will provide a safe environment where they can learn and					
		develop.					
		We promote respect, fairness and consideration for all staff, volunteers and students.					
		2. We have appointed a Child Safety Officer who will provide support and advice to our					
		workers.					
	3. All new staff, volunteers and students will receive a copy of the Child Safe Child						
	Friendly Policy including our Code of Conduct and our How to Deal with Complaints						
		process.					
		4. All staff, volunteers and students will be trained yearly in our child protection procedures.					
	Pre-	As part of the employment / volunteer application process, we will require all					
	Employment	applications to undergo a NSW WWCC screen and we will be checking with your					
	Checks	nominated referees as specified on the application form.					
L	monification for the application form.						



Job Application Template for Allawah Community Church Form 03

Application for Employment / Volunteer Form

To be completed by the applicant.

The information supplied in this document and in your application will be treated in the strictest of confidence.

APPLICANT NAME:

Title:	Surname:	Given Name/s:		
DETAILS OF ADVERTISED VACANCY				
JOB TITLE:				
LOCATION:				
EMPLOYMENT TYP	PE (PLEASE CIRCLE):	Employee / Volunteer		
APPLICATIONS SHO	OULD BE MARKED 'PRIVATE	Allawah Community Church		
AND CONFIDENTIA	AL' AND FORWARDED TO:	Attention: Roy Gomez		
		PO Box 479		
		South Hurstville NSW 2221		
		Or emailed to Roy@allawahchurch.com		



APPLICANT DETAILS

Title:	Surname:	Given N	Name/s:		
Home Addr	ess:				
Suburb:	Sta	ite:	P,	/Code:	
Contact De	tails:				
Work:		Home:			
Mobile:		Email:			
	ns: ch certified copies of all qualifications ar of attainment	nd	Year Obtained:		
Are you an	Australian Citizen / Permanent Resident	?		Yes	□ No
If no, do yo	u have a working visa			Yes	□ No
(Note: to be residency st	e eligible for employment, applicants mu ratus)	st have i	the appropriate wo	ork visa or	have permanent
expected to	e any pre-existing injury or disease of wloof or could be affected by the nature applying?	-	duties and respons		-
	e provide a brief description (or on a se	parate a		- 100	
	re to make such a disclosure or the mak npensation under the Accident Compens		_	disclosure	forfeits you the



Do you require any special arrangements at an interview?		☐ Yes	□ No	
If yes, please provide details below:				
Do you have any convictions, finding of guilt and/or pending years old?	police charges	against you Yes	u that are less than 10 No	
If yes, please provide brief details:				
(Note: A satisfactory police record check is a prerequisite of the	he position)			
Do you have a Working With Child Clearance?		☐ Yes	□ No	
What is your WWCC number (or application No):				
What is your birth date?				
REFEREE DETAILS (Note: three referees are required. At least two of these in the proposed role as past employees or trainers.)	e referees shou	ld be able :	to vouch for your ability	
1.Name of Referee:				
Position Held:	Contact No:			
Name of Organisation:				
2.Name of Referee:				
Position Held: Contact No:				
Name of Organisation:				
3.Name of Referee:				
Position Held:	Contact No:			
Name of Organisation:	1			



CERTIFICATION

I hereby certify that the above information is correct and complete to the best of my knowledge and belief. I
understand that, if I am employed, or accepted as a volunteer I will be liable to dismissal if any of the
statements in my application are found to be deliberately misleading.
Applicants Name (print):
Signature:
Date:

Applying for a position at Allawah Community Church

Failure to complete the application form, provide an updated resume, and a **certified copy** of your qualification attainment certificates will result in the rejection of your application.

Interview and selection process

A selection panel interviews and selects. The panel will include one member of the team who works in the relevant area. The selection of candidates for positions in Allawah Community Church is determined by skills, knowledge, experience and the personal qualities that best match the job requirements, the Allawah Community Church Vision, Mission, Values and our Strategic Direction. The selection panel will assess your ability to do the job through interview questions and referee checks.

Referee Check

The selection panel will contact your referees if you are shortlisted by Allawah Community Church following an interview. The selection panel will ask your referees to comment on your work behaviour and can be asked to verify or comment on claims made by you.

Criminal records check

A criminal records check is required for all Allawah Community Church staff and Volunteers. Any recorded details on your criminal records check do not necessarily disqualify you from selection. You will be given the opportunity to discuss the matter before any final decision is made.

Working with children check

When applying for a position in child-related employment a working with children check will need to be undertaken by you. This is a formal process of checks to determine your suitability to work with children or have unsupervised access to children in your work. This check takes into account relevant criminal records.

Important Information

To maximise your opportunity for employment in this role, the following is suggested:

A cover letter with a statement addressing your relevant skills and experience. Details concerning the required selection criteria (skills, experience and capacities) are contained in the Position Description.



Risk management

Why have a risk management strategy or plan?

Everyone working in child-related employment can pose some risk for children. All these risks are best identified and managed through the development of an effective risk management strategy or plan.

Developing a risk management plan doesn't have to be hard or complicated, but risk management only becomes truly successful when a risk management perspective permeates the culture of an organisation so that it is an everyday part of organisational life.

Developing a risk management strategy or plan

When developing a risk management strategy or plan, churches should consider the formal processes outlined in the national standard for risk management, the Risk Management Strategy - AS/NZS ISO 3100 (2009).

But while the formal processes of risk management are very important, successful risk management can be dependent on informal processes as well. What happens at the informal level by every worker in their everyday activities can be just as valuable as the formal processes.

Identifying your risks

Risk management can be said to be about knowing what can go wrong and how to avoid it. Here are a few important things to consider:

- 1. What could possibly happen? Think about anything that could possibly go wrong. This could include things like people hurting themselves, a fire, lack of supervision, negative media coverage of an event.
- 2. How likely is it to happen? For each risk that you've identified think about how likely it is for it to happen. Consider everything, from the farfetched to the common, the everyday to the rare.
- 3. How serious would the harm be? If it did happen, how serious could the harm be? Consider the consequence for your church, children, staff, volunteers etc. if harm did occur?
- 4. Have a plan of action for each risk identified. What would you do in response if the identified risk happened? When the harm is serious, and the problem could arise often, you have a risk that needs immediate attention.

Risk management process

AS/NZS ISO 3100 is based on a continuous improvement process. It includes a number of steps that any community organisation or business enterprise can adopt. Here is an adaptation of these steps:

- 1. **Establish the context.** Why are you doing this? What external and/or internal factors/requirements are making you develop a risk management strategy/plan? What are the parameters in which you are doing it?
- 2. **How will you do it?** What processes are you going to use to develop the strategy/plan? Who is going to be involved, and how? Is there a timeframe for completing it in? What will you do with the strategy/plan when it is finished?
- 3. **Communicate and consult.** Let people know what you are doing and work together in identifying the risks and how they can be managed. Do this with your internal and external stakeholders in developing your strategy/plan as a whole, and then, as appropriate, at each stage of the risk management process.
- 4. **Identify risks.** What are the *where, when, why and how* events that precipitate risks? Identify not just Occupational Health and Safety issues but also risks to do with child abuse and unintentional harm.



- 5. **Analyse risks.** Determine what the likelihood and consequences are of each identified risk and assign a level to the risk, e.g. high if highly likely and the consequence is severe. Use a matrix to do this to plot the rating for each risk.
- 6. **Develop interventions.** Work out what you can do to stop the identified risk from happening, and what to do if the risk does eventuate. What will these interventions mean in terms of resources and what will be the consequences of doing them and not doing them.
- 7. **Monitor and review.** Develop a process to monitor and evaluate your risk management strategy/plan. Keep a record of any risks that happened and what the outcome was, both of the risk itself and what you did. Record whether these accorded with your strategy/plan or deviated from it and why. This is important for continuous improvement.
- 8. **Designate and manage.** Risk management is not a function you do once and forget about it. It should be part of the ongoing quality improvement process of the church. Nominate a person to be responsible for the ongoing management of the strategy/plan and include the strategy/plan in the church's culture and management.

We would recommend that you prepare a Risk Assessment for each Children's program which will cover all of its normal activities in a year. This can be reviewed and amended as and if incidents arise during the year. If an unusual activity is added to the program then the activity should be assessed individually.

Below is a simple template with some base ideas for assessing and ranking church activities. These will need to be written by the team leader and is a helpful process to invoke positive thinking.

Risk Assessment Template

Activity	Risks	Ranking	How to reduce Risk	Priority
	Child needs to go to Toilet	High	Provide adequate supervision	1
Kids Church /Crèche	Movement of Children from Church to Sunday School Rooms	High	Provide adequate supervision	1
	Return of children to parents	Low	Ensure kids are handed off to parents	2
	Transport	High	Screen Drivers See Policy	1
Youth Group	Arrival of Kids	Low	Have a sign in procedure	2
	Kids leaving site	Low	Have a sign out procedure	2
Church Building	Ensure building Safe	Medium Complete checks See Policy		1
SRE	Teacher alone in class with children	High	Have School office number programmed into phone	1

As a result of a Risk Assessment, usually the church will end up with some procedures. Below are a few templates that might be useful when considering risk management.



RISK ASSESSMENT TEMPLATES



Risk Assessment Form - Form 04

Allawah Community Church Activity Risk Assessment Form

Activity Name:	Date of Activity:
Outline briefly purpose of activity:	
Name of Venue:	Time of Activity:
Has venue been checked for safety hazards by a	How long will the activity be running for:
team member and is it deemed suitable for activity?	Thow tong with the detivity be running for.
☐ Yes ☐ No	
Group Size: Male Female	Contact person and number during activity / event:
Activity Leaders / Instructions	Ratio Required:
	Recommended Ratios
	1:3 for 0-1 year olds
	1:5 for 2-6 year olds
	1:8 for 7-12 year olds
	-
	1:15 for 13-17 year olds
	Ratios will need to be modified with consideration to
	various factors including special needs, behavioural
	issues, high risk activities such as swimming, high
	risk venues.
	Please give details:
Participant Requirements:	List required equipment:
Has a permission form, outlining event and	
requirements, been handed out to participants at	
least 2 weeks prior to event? Yes No First Aid Coordinator for activity / event:	December Activity, in relies to a second 2 D V v D V
i iist Aid Coordinator for activity / event.	Does the Activity involve transport? Yes No
Name:	Have all required applications been completed by
	designated drivers and attached?
First Aid Qualification:	
Has first aid kit been checked and included?	
☐ Yes ☐ No	



Risk Management Plan

STEP 1	STEP 2	STEP 3	STEP 4	STEP 5	STEP 6
Describe the	Identify the	Balancing the	Manage the	Analyse the	Review the
Activity	Risks	Risk /	Risk /	Risk	Event
		Likelihood	Consequences		
Identify all elements of the event from	Something that could happen that results in	Potential Risk	Management Strategies	The level of Risk	Nominate who will review after the
beginning to end	harm to a child or young person		What we do to reduce the risk	Potential Risk x Management Strategies	activity / event
		Likely Possible Unlikely	Minor Moderate Major	Chart Results (See below)	Decide if activity is acceptable or not.

Comments

Simple Risk Matrix

	Consequences			
Likelihood	Minor	Moderate	Major	
Likely				
Possible				
Unlikely				

Risk Treatment Key

Intolerable Risk Level. Immediate action required
Tolerable Risk Level. Risks must be reduced so far as is practicable.
Broadly Acceptable Risk Level. Monitor and further reduce where practicable.

Having considered the risks within this activity and determined a risk management plan to minimise those risks, I consider this to be an appropriately safe program to conduct.

Team Leader		Date
	(Form to be filed in an appropriate	te location for future reference or refinement.)



Annual Attendance Form – Form 05

Allawah Community Church Annual Child Attendance Permission Form

Family Name:					
Children's / Young Person's First Name				Date of Birth	School Grade
1.					
2.					
3.					
4.					
Parent's Names:					
Family Address:					
Phone No:	Email	:			
Mobile No:					
Medical Details:					
Does your Child have any of the following (please prov	ide deta	ails)		
☐ Allergies					
☐ Asthma					
☐ Dietary Requirements:					
☐ Regular Medications (to be adr	ministered b	y leade	rs):		
(please attach instructions, reg ministry leader only)	arding frequ	iency ai	nd amou	nt, to the medicatio	on and give to the
Is your child allowed Paracetamol?	Yes		No		
Medicare Number:				<u></u>	
Emergency Contact Name & Number:					
Is there any other relevant information that inform us below so that we can cater for the					vement please
I give permission for my children / young per Young People's Ministries throughout activities that may arise. I agree to delegat them with the safety and wellbeing of my ch	, and t e my author	to take ¡ rity to th	part in al e desigr	I planned activities led leaders involve	and incidental d and to entrust
Signature				Date	-



A PARENTS GUIDE TO CHILD SAFE AND CHILD FRIENDLY POLICY AT ALLAWAH COMMUNITY CHURCH

Allawah Community Church supports the active participation of kids in our church. We respect and value children and will provide a safe environment where they can learn and develop.

- 1. We promote respect, fairness and consideration for all staff, volunteers and students.
- 2. We have appointed a Child Safety Officer who will provide support and advice to our workers.
- 3. All new staff, volunteers and students will receive a copy of the Child Safe Child Friendly Policy including our Code of Conduct and our How to Deal with Complaints process.
- 4. All staff, volunteers and students will be trained yearly in our child protection procedures.
- 5. Our Child Safety Officer is Maru Gomez and can be contacted on Ph. 0434 394 920 or by Email at care@allawahchurch.com should parents be interested in looking at our Child Safe practices.

Allawah Community Church takes Child protection seriously and has a set of policies and codes of conduct in place to ensure our staff and volunteers provide safe care for your children.

All our staff and volunteers who work in our children's ministries (18 years and over) have been cleared through the Working With Children Checks.

- 1. What we Believe
 - a. Everyone in our Church should be confident that complaints will be dealt with honestly and fairly.
 - b. Everyone in our Church should be confident in reporting inappropriate behaviour around kids.
 - c. Everyone in our Church should report any concerns about the safety or welfare of a child or young person immediately.
- 2. All complaints should be reported. This includes:
 - a. Disclosure of abuse
 - b. Inappropriate behaviour around children
 - c. Suspicion of abuse or harm to a child.
- 3. All complaints must be reported to the Child Safety person

Name: Maru Gomez Contact Number: 0434 394 920

A child or young person or any staff member, volunteer or student can make a complaint, or raise a concern, directly to the Child Safety Officer.

- 4. The Child Safety Officer will take the following actions:
 - a. Listen to the person making the complaint and make a record of the complaint using the "Complaint Record Form".
 - b. Assess the complaint and if appropriate report the complaint to Community Services and other appropriate authorities if warranted. (i.e. Police) Inform everyone involved in the complaint of the requirement to make this report.
 - c. If the complaint involves inappropriate behaviour and a breach of the Code of Conduct, the Church Leaders will need to take action in accordance with internal discipline procedures.
- 5. The Church must provide details to the Office of the Children's Guardian (WWCC people) of any staff, volunteer or student who has been the subject of completed employment proceedings involving;
 - a. Reportable conduct: or
 - b. Acts of violence committed by them in the presence of a child.

Reportable conduct is:

- iv. Any sexual offence or sexual misconduct, committed against, with or in the presence of a child (including a child pornography offence); or
- v. Any assault, ill treatment or neglect of a child; or
- vi. Any behaviour that causes psychological harm to a child; whether or not, in any case, with the consent of the child.



Transport Policy – Form 06

Allawah Community Church Transport Policy

Drivers with responsibility for providing transportation during an activity are required to complete this form.

Applicant:												
Drivers Nar	me:						Phone	No:				
I have a cu	rrent Driver's	s Licens	se:	Yes		No		Expiry	/ Date:			
Type of Lice	ense: Car		Bus		Othe	r (please	specify)					
I have suffic	cient driving	experie	ence (3 y	ears min	and am	not on m	ıy L's or Re	ed P's)	Yes		No	
I have restr	ictions on m	ıy Licen	se (e.g.	Green F	o's, sus	pended I	icense):		Yes		No	
If so please	specify:											
Witness:												
Licence sig	hted by:				Sigr	nature:				Dat	ed:	
Declaration	n:											
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Signed:					Date	d:						



Property and Equipment Audit / Safety Check – Form 07

Allawah Community Church Property and Equipment Policy

Allawah Community Church is committed to providing safe spaces for children to participate in organised activities. The following audit will be completed on a six monthly basis. If an incident report involves the need to modify a portion of the property, then that item will be added to the six monthly check list.

Date:	√/×	Comments / Actions
A. Car Park / Entry		
i. Clean / Clear of Rubbish		
ii. Disable Access available		
iii. Pathways clear of obstacles and		
non-slip.		
B. Aisles / Corridors		
i. Surfaces clean / clear of defects		
ii. Clear of rubbish		
iii. Clear of electrical leads		
iv. Clear vision at intersection		
C. Floors		
i. Even surfaces – no holes		
ii. Clear of rubbish		
D. Steps / Stairs		
i. Highlighted		
ii. Handrails		
iii. Ramps for disable access		
iv. No steps are too high		
E. Windows		
i. Clean and Clear		
ii. No broken Windows		
iii. Windows free of rubbish and		
obstruction		
iv. Windows open freely (if operable)		
F. Ventilation		
i. Does AC work efficiently		
ii. Have filters been cleaned?		
iii. Is adequate ventilation occurring		
G. General Lighting		
i. Adequate illumination / bulbs all working		
ii. Good natural light		
iii. No direct or reflected glare		
H. Fire / Emergency		
 i. Extinguishers in place, services clearly marked 		
ii. Fire hoses / blankets in place with		
correct signage		
iii. Exit signs operational and clearly		
visible		
iv. Exit doors freely open from inside		
v. Exists free from obstructions		
vi. Fire alarm systems in place /		
regular tests and documentation of		
such		
vii. Emergency evacuation procedures displayed appropriately		



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٧.	Glass items inaccessible to			
	children			
vi.	Hot water inaccessible to children			
vii.	No dangling cords			
viii.	Floors dry / non slip			
ix.	Safety plugs used in power points			
х.	All matters of hygiene considered			
0. 0	outside / Building External			
i.	Fences in good condition			
ii.	Gates and locks working			
iii.	Equipment locked away			
iv.	Dangerous plants removed or			
	made safe			
٧.	Play equipment appropriate and			
	safe to use			
vi.	Perimeter fire breaks clear and			
	serviceable			
vii.	Exterior of building clean and free			
	of damage.			
	ther Areas of Concern Identified but			
	ot listed.			
i.				
ii.				
Name	e of Checker:			
Siana	turo		Doto	
Signa	.ure		 Date:	



Dealing with Complaints or Incidents

Allawah Community Church values the privacy obligations, and respects the privacy rights of children as well as those people who provide information. Because of the sensitive nature of personal information, Allawah Community Church has established policies and procedures that provide safeguards regarding the collection, use and disclosure of sensitive information. Any sensitive and/or confidential information will be kept in a secure manner.

The *Privacy and Personal Information Protection Act 1998* suggests you can protect an individual's information by ensuring:

- 1. Personal information is collected in the correct manner and for a specific purpose (e.g. the Working With Children Check and Referee check)
- 2. Asking permission prior to obtaining personal information
- 3. Storing personal information securely
- 4. Personal information can only be accessed by authorised person
- 5. Policy in place outlining when personal information needs to be accessed
- 6. Ensuring personal records aren't altered or forged
- 7. Checking the accuracy of information provided
- 8. Policy in place for disclosing information to others

To avoid confusion and maintain confidentiality, everyone, including children, should be made aware of the need to report serious matters involving child protection to external authorities. You cannot promise confidentiality in these matters; however, you must assure privacy in handling the matter and that only those who need to know will be advised.



Complaint & Incident Templates



Complaint & Incident Form - Form 08

Allawah Community Church Complaints and Incidents Record Form

Use this form to record complaints or incidents in the church

If the complaint / Incident involves child abuse (risk of significant harm to a child) the form is to be filled in by the Child Safety Officer.

Where an accident or incident has occurred and child abuse is not suspected, the form can be filled in by the Team Leader and a copy provided to the Child Safety Officer for review and filing.

This form should be used to

- 1. Record a suspicion, allegation or disclosure of child abuse or a complaint of inappropriate behaviour.
- 2. Record any incidents that occur at Allawah Community Church. These will be assessed and under a Risk Assessment and any resulting actions implemented.

ilc	d Abuse Complaint or Inappropriate behaviour ☐ Incident Report ☐
	Recorders Name & Position:
	Name of Child or Young Person involved:
	Name of person making Complaint
	Name of the person who the complaint is made against
	Nature of the complaint – include times, date, location and what happened. (This can include observations of the child's behaviour)
	Details of any injuries and if the child received medical attention:
	Accurately record what the child said when describing what happened.



Details of anyone who saw what happened				
Does this complaint indicate the possibility of child abuse, i.e. Physical abuse, sexual abuse or neglect? The Abuse trees can be used to determine appropriate actions. See following.	Yes		No	
If Yes, provide details of your report to Community Services	Ph:	132	111	
Person Spoken to:	Date:			
Does this complaint indicate that an employee or volunteer engaged child abuse resulting from i) Sexual misconduct ii) Serious physical assault	Yes		No	
If Yes, provide details to i) The Children's Guardian ii) Inform the accused person	websit	e. Date	through	
If complaint relates to inappropriate behaviour, details of internal discipnote of any support, counselling that was offered to the person against				
Any follow up required?	Yes		No	
If Yes, provide details				

Notes: See Tree Charts and guides to recognise abuse to assess appropriate reporting process.



What is 'risk of significant harm'?

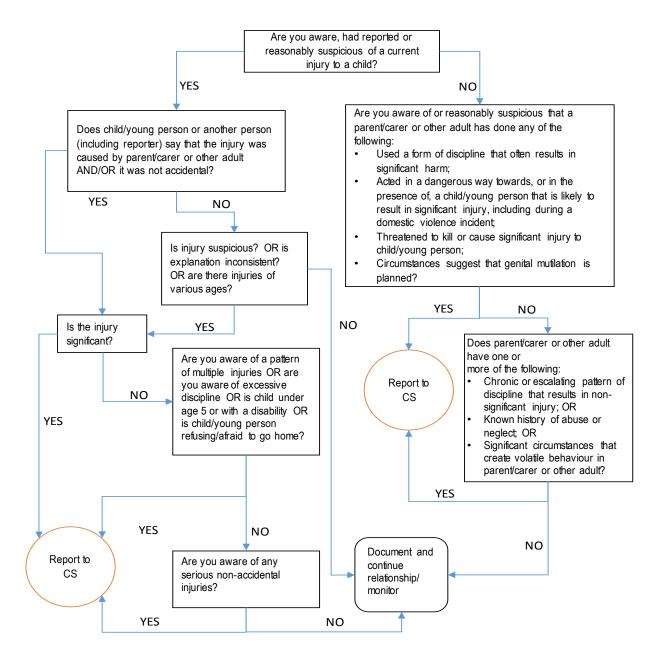
A child or young person is at risk of significant harm if the circumstances that are causing concern for the safety, welfare or wellbeing of the child or young person are present to a significant extent.

Significant means that which is sufficiently serious to warrant a response by a statutory authority irrespective of a family's consent.

What is significant is not minor or trivial and may reasonably be expected to produce a substantial and demonstrably adverse impact on the child or young person's safety, welfare or wellbeing.

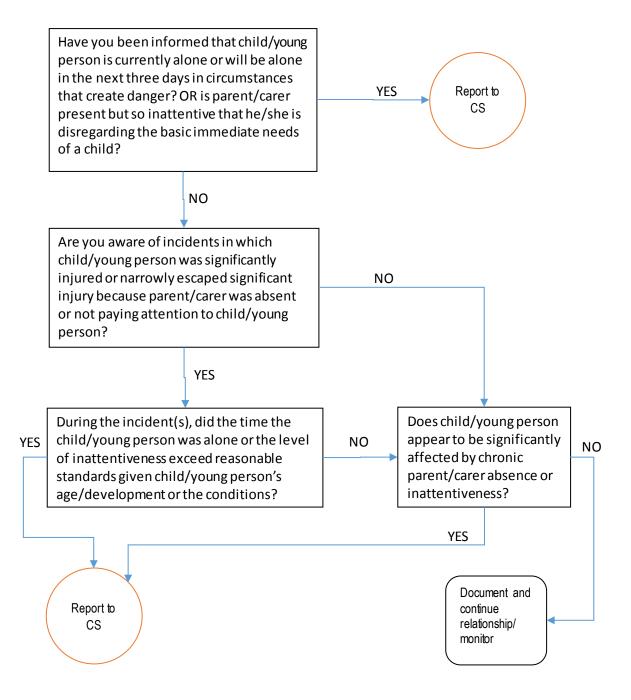
Significance can result from a single act or omission or an accumulation of these.

PHYSICAL ABUSE



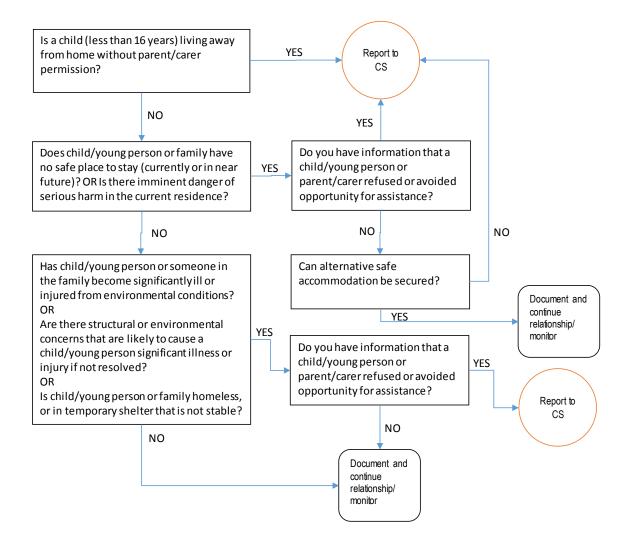


NEGLECT - SUPERVISION





NEGLECT - SHELTER



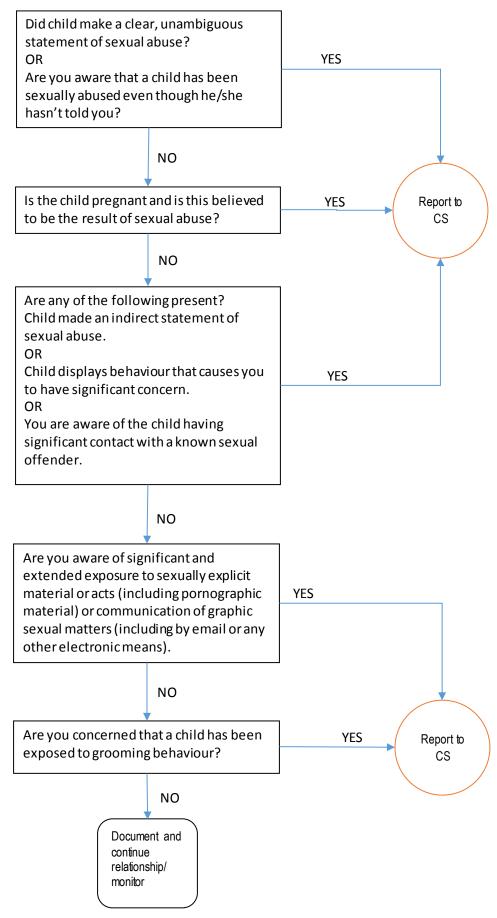


SEXUAL ABUSE (0-15 Year Olds)

Grooming behaviour is a pattern of behaviour aimed at engaging a young person as a precursor to sexual abuse. Any individual with access to a young person has done at least one of the following examples of grooming behaviour with the young person: manoeuvring to get time alone with young person, buying the young person gifts, taking young person to fun places, building trust with young person, providing drugs or alcohol, or getting a vulnerable young person to feel special and loved. When considering adults who are not previously known to be sexual offenders, only consider these actions as potentially grooming behaviour if there is no acceptable or appropriate alternative explanation. For example, it should not be considered grooming for a relative to buy gifts, take young person to fun places and try to build a trusting relationship with a young person or make him/her feel special.

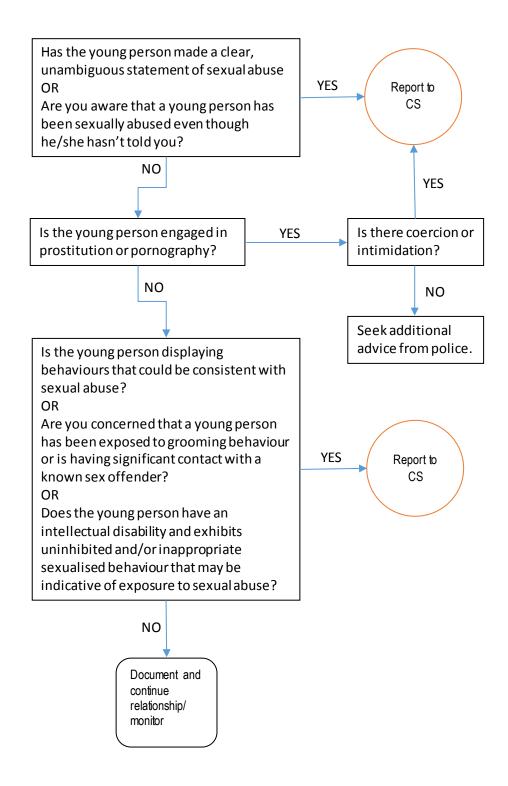


SEXUAL ABUSE (0-15 Year Old)



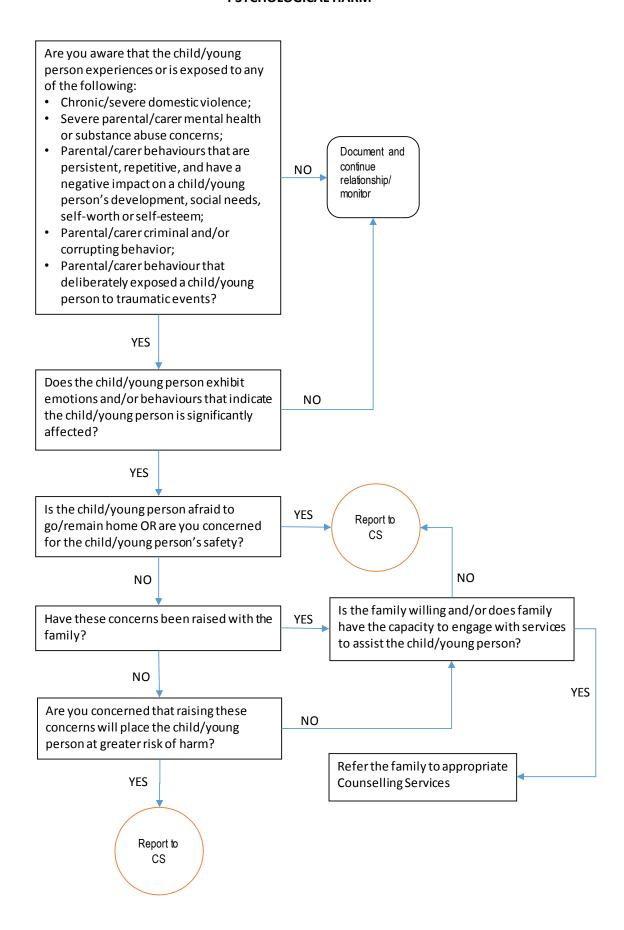


SEXUAL ABUSE (16-17 Year Olds)





PSYCHOLOGICAL HARM



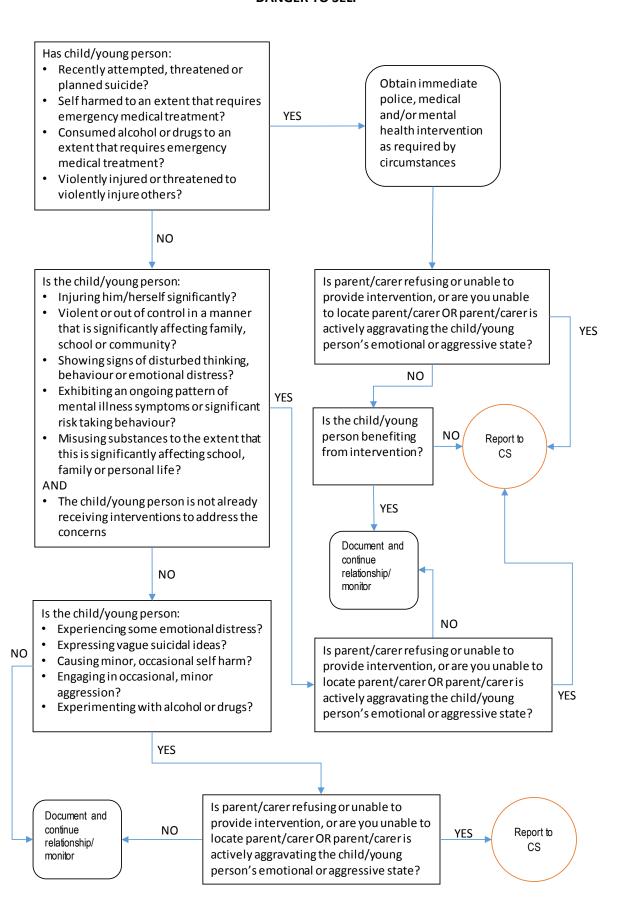


DOMESTIC VIOLENCE

Has there been an incident of domestic violence (whether child/young person If appropriate, ensure was present or not) where parent/carer that police are called and incident is reported. or other adult household member: • Used a weapon (gun, knife, etc.); • Attempted to kill household member(s); • Seriously injured an adult; Report to · Caused physical injury to a CS YES child/young person; Seriously threatened to harm child/young person/adult/self? Is there persistent domestic violence? OR Has there been a significant increase in the pattern/level of violence? NO Was a child/young person: • Attempting to intervene; • In parent/carer's arms or close enough proximity to be hurt; YES Significantly upset by incident(s); • Who is aged under 12 months the subject of a prenatal report related to domestic violence toward the mother, who has not engaged with services to reduce the risk? NO Are you aware of the presence of risk factors including: • AVO or family law contact orders due to violence; • Recent/imminent divorce or separation; YES · Stalking, extremely controlling behaviour, or sexual assault of a parent/carer; • Aggressor has significant mental health issues or severe alcohol or drug Document and continue One or a combination of additional relationship/ risk factors? monitor NO



DANGER TO SELF





Physical abuse

Physical abuse occurs if a child or young person sustains a non-accidental injury or is being treated in a way that may have or is likely to cause injury. The injury may be inflicted by a parent, carer, other adult or child or young person.

Potential Indicators of physical abuse

In parents or caregivers				
Physical visits with child to health or other services with unexplained or suspicious injuries, swallowing of non-food substances or internal complaints non-family member presents child to health services presentation at a number of different medical centres/services over time explanation of injury is not consistent with the visible injury family history of violence disclosed/apparent use of excessive discipline aggressive behaviour displayed in the presence of the child or young person				
Social/psychological				
history of their own maltreatment as a child fears injuring their own child				



	somewhere else	e	se	9							
•	lacks empathy										
•	general indicators consistent with female genital mutilation (e.g. having a 'special operation or ceremony')										
•	constantly on guard around adults, cowers at sudden movements, unusually deferent to adults										it
	Aggression with peers and in play	h	h n	ne	eei	rs a	nd ir	n pla	av		

Sexual abuse

Sexual abuse is sexual activity or behaviour that is imposed, or is likely to be imposed, on a child or young person by another person. Sexual activity includes the following: sexual acts; exposure to sexually explicit material; inducing or coercing the child or young person to engage in, or assist any other person to engage in, sexually explicit conduct for any reason and exposing the child or young person to circumstances where there is risk that they may be sexually abused.

Potential Indicators of sexual abuse

In victims	In non-offending parents or caregivers	In perpetrators			
Physical pregnant and reluctant to identify father diagnosed sexually transmitted infection trauma to the genital region, including bruising, bleeding and tearing trauma to the breasts, buttocks, lower abdomen or thighs including bite/burn marks	Physical nil	Physical nil			
Social/psychological direct or indirect disclosure of sexual abuse contact with an alleged or known sex offender describes or re-enacts sexual acts with age inappropriate knowledge unexplained money or gifts	Social/psychological defers to partner may minimise disclosure	Social/psychological appears to encourage, tolerate sexualised behaviour controlling attitude and behaviour to child, young person and/or partner exposes child or young person to prostitution or pornography, or uses a child or young person for pornographic purposes			



٠	sexual	ly	provocat	ive
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- risk taking behaviours, self harm, suicidal ideation and alcohol or drug use
- poor self esteem
- disturbed sleep and nightmares
- marked changes in behaviour, for example a confident talkative child becoming suddenly introverted, or an introverted child becoming aggressive or not wanting to be alone
- eating disorder
- regresses in developmental achievements, child is excessively clingy or begins soiling and wetting when these were not formerly a problem
- sexual themes in the child's artwork, stories or play
- fears going home or expresses a desire to live elsewhere
- persistently runs away from home
- goes to bed fully clothed
- wears baggy clothes in order to disguise gender, body shape, bruising or injuries
- engages in, talks about sexual acts including violent sexual acts
- knows about practices and locations usually associated with prostitution

- intentionally exposes child or young person to the sexual behaviour of others
- committed or has been suspected of child sexual abuse or child pornography
- coerces child or young person to engage in sexual behaviour with other children and young people
- minimises disclosure or defends against accusations of sexual abuse by claiming the child or young person is lying
- inappropriately curtails development of child's age appropriate independence from the family
- · overly critical of adult partner
- family denies pregnancy of child or young person
- minimisation of the impact or seriousness of abuse
- justification of abuse by blaming victim
- · grooming behaviour



Psychological harm

The child or young person's psychological state has been, or is at risk of, being harmed, because of the parent or carer's behaviour or attitude. This could be due to domestic violence, mental health, drug and alcohol use, criminal or corrupting behaviour or deliberate exposure to traumatic events.

Potential Indicators of psychological harm

as pu	inappropriate physical or social isolation unishment
	ence of domestic violence sychological
 takes extreme risks, is markedly disruptive, is a bully, is aggressively violent regresses in developmental achievements, child is excessively clingy or begins soiling and wetting when these were not formerly a problem doesn't value others or show empathy lacks trust in people lacks age appropriate interpersonal skills extreme attention seeking impaired parental or caregiver attachment depressed, anxious or other mental health indicators child. ignor persion make prese belie persion isolation isolation isolation interpersonal skills isolation interpersonal skills interpersonal skills isolation interpersonal skills <li< td=""><td>trantly criticises, belittles, teases lyoung person res or withholds praise and affection istently hostile and verbally abusive, ets and blames child unnecessarily res excessive or unreasonable demands rence of domestic violence anaged mental health condition reves that a particular child or young on is bad or evil res and/or prevents the child or young on from engaging in normal peer ionships relet to respond to the psychological needs rechild or young person due to their own and/or alcohol use</td></li<>	trantly criticises, belittles, teases lyoung person res or withholds praise and affection istently hostile and verbally abusive, ets and blames child unnecessarily res excessive or unreasonable demands rence of domestic violence anaged mental health condition reves that a particular child or young on is bad or evil res and/or prevents the child or young on from engaging in normal peer ionships relet to respond to the psychological needs rechild or young person due to their own and/or alcohol use



Domestic and family violence

Domestic and family violence is any abusive behaviour used by a person in a relationship to gain and maintain control over their partner or ex-partner. It can include a broad range of behaviour that causes fear and physical and/or psychological harm. If a child or young person is living in a household where there have been incidents of domestic violence, then they may be at risk of serious physical and/or psychological harm.

Potential Indicators of parent/carer domestic violence

In children & young people	In adult victims	In perpetrators	
Physical	Physical	Physical	
 Physical preterm and low birth weight baby low weight for age and/or fails to thrive and develop unexplained physical injuries uses or abuses alcohol or other drugs eating disorders psychosomatic complaints aggressive or violent behaviour regresses in developmental achievements, pre-school child is excessively clingy or begins soiling and wetting when these were not 	Physical explanation inconsistent with injury bruising and other injuries, especially if pregnant minimises injuries and/or pain wears concealing clothing, in order to hide bruising or injuries unwanted pregnancy or sexually transmitted infection through coerced sex/refusal by sexual partner to use contraception unexplained miscarriage or stillbirth alcohol and/or drug abuse	physical signs of the victim fighting back, such as facial scratches and injuries to hands	
formerly a problem wears concealing clothing, in order to hide bruising or injuries			
Social/psychological	Social/psychological	Social/psychological	
directly or indirectly discloses domestic violence	nutritional and sleep deprivation or disorders	directly or indirectly discloses domestic violence	
difficulties with sleeping, eating	feels anxious and depressed	presents as the victim	
over-protects mother or fears leaving mother at home	low self-esteem socially isolated	visible rough handling of victim, children, pets threatens to commit acts of	
no or little emotion or fear when hurt or threatened	disclosure of suicidal thoughts and attempts	violence against family members or pets	
unusual fear of physical	submissive and withdrawn	is unable to control angry	



	contact with adults	•	seldom or never makes decisions without referring to		outbursts
•	overly compliant, shy, withdrawn, passive and		partner	·	always speaks for partner or children
	uncommunicative	•	frequent absences from work or studies		describes partner as
•	poor sleeping patterns, fear of dark, nightmares		substantial delay before		incompetent or stupid
	frequent school		seeking medical treatment	•	holds rigidly to stereotypical gender roles
Ľ	absenteeism, poor		repeat/after hours		gender roles
	concentration		presentations at emergency departments	•	jealous of partner, lacks trust in them or anyone else
•	poor academic achiever		terror or reluctance to speak		does not allow partner or
•	insecure attachment with	ľ	to those in authority	Ĺ	child to access service providers alone
	parents	•	reference frequently made		•
	physically, verbally abusive towards siblings, parents and peers		to a partner's anger or temper	•	admits to some violence but minimises its frequency and severity
		•	financial problems		
	abusive or dismissive attitude to a parent who is a victim			·	previous criminal convictions or apprehended violence orders imposed against them
•	homeless or stays away from home for prolonged time				
•	takes extreme risks				
•	socially isolated				
•	sadness and frequent crying				
•	suicide attempts				



Neglect

The child or young person's basic needs (e.g. supervision, medical care, nutrition, shelter and education) have not been met, or are at risk of not being met, to such an extent that it can reasonably be expected to have a significant adverse impact on the child or young person's safety, welfare or well-being. This lack of care could be constituted by a single act or omission or a pattern of acts or omissions.

Potential indicators of neglect

In children & young people	In parents or caregivers			
Physical low weight for age and/or fails to thrive and develop inappropriate provision of nutrition leading to, for example, excessive weight for age attains general developmental milestones late poor primary health care, untreated sores, serious nappy rash, significant dental decay	Physical may have poor standards of hygiene and self care physical signs of injuries from domestic violence prioritisation of work and adult interests to essential needs of child or young person parental drug or alcohol use or dependence having a negative impact on the child's			
standard of hygiene and self-care is poor not adequately supervised for their age Social/psychological	physical, social and psychological health Social/psychological			
scavenges or steals food, focus is on basic survival longs for or indiscriminately seeks adult affection	unable or unwilling to provide or arrange adequate food, shelter, clothing, education, medical attention or a safe home leaves child without appropriate supervision			
stays at the homes of friends and acquaintances for prolonged periods, rather than at own home displays rocking, sucking, head-banging behaviour	 abandons child withholds physical contact or stimulation for prolonged periods minimal psychological nurturing, 'low-warmth' parenting limited understanding of child's needs 			
overly passive, emotionless	unrealistic expectations of child presence of an unmanaged mental health condition treats one child differently to other siblings			



Prenatal harm

Refers to parental circumstances or behaviours during pregnancy that may reasonably be expected to produce a substantial and demonstrably adverse impact on the child's safety, welfare or wellbeing.

Potential indicators of prenatal harm

In parents or caregivers

Physical

- · pregnant woman misuses alcohol or drugs
- pregnant woman is/has been victim of domestic violence
- homelessness

Social/psychological

- pregnant woman has an unmanaged mental health condition
- pregnant woman is at risk of suicide
- · pregnant woman or caregivers have history of abuse or neglect of siblings of the unborn child
- a previous child of the pregnant woman was removed or died
- pregnant woman's partner had a previous child removed or die in suspicious circumstances
- pregnant woman's significant others are misusing drugs, alcohol or have a mental illness
- pregnant child or young person with limited social support, such as pregnant child/young person under parental responsibility to the Minister