**Who We Are**

We are a new communities support group who assist families experiencing childcare protection interventions.

We are non judgemental. We listen. We assist families through the challenges that they meet. We offer a FREE service.

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**We Offer**

- One to one support service for families experiencing child protective interventions or that have had their children taken into care
- Outreach services
- Awareness raising
- Cultural support for front line professionals

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**Contact**

Migrant Family Support Service

**Dublin**

New Communities Partnership
53 Upper Dorset St, Dublin 1
Tel: 01 87 27 842
E-mail: familiesupport@newcommunities.ie

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**Cork**

New Communities Partnership
107 Shandon Street, Cork
Tel: 021 23 99 910
E-mail: ncp@ncpcork@gmail.com

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**GUIDELINES ON HOW TO BEST SAFEGUARD A CHILD**

**What is Child Abuse?**

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**For Free Support & Information Call**

Migrant Family Support Service
53 Dorset St, Dublin 1
Tel 01 8727842

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www.newcommunities.ie

New Communities Partnership- empowering and representing ethnic minorities and their organisations in Ireland

The Migrant Family Support Service is funded by TUSLA- Child and Family Agency.

Migrant Family Support Service supporting families experiencing child protection interventions.

www.newcommunities.ie
An adult’s behaviour can cause a child significant harm, knowingly or unknowingly. This can be in the form of neglect, physical abuse, emotional abuse or sexual abuse.

Failing to prevent any of these instances happening to a child is also putting a child at risk or harming a child. Having knowledge of a child being abused and not reporting it is a criminal offence. Sometimes, child abuse can be wilful, other times adults might not realise they are putting a child at risk.

Who Is There To Help You?

If in doubt or if you have any concerns about a child please get in contact immediately with:

- **An Garda Siochana** - telephone 999
- **Child and Family Agency** [www.tusla.ie](http://www.tusla.ie) – contact the Duty Social Worker in your local area.
- **Parentline** - telephone 1890 92 72 77 or 01 873 35 00
- **Your local GP or Public Health Nurse.**
- **NCP- Migrant Family Support Service**
  - telephone 01 872 7842

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### Guidelines On How To Best Safeguard A Child

1. **What Is Emotional Abuse?**

   - Humiliating a child.
   - Shouting and cursing at a child.
   - Excessively criticising a child, not showing him/her affection.
   - Preventing a child from having social interaction, isolating a child.
   - Having your child witness incidents of Domestic Abuse is also a form of emotional abuse.

2. **What Is Neglect?**

   - Not caring for a child properly by often leaving the child alone and unsupervised (under the age of 18). Leaving an older sibling to supervise and care for younger siblings.
   - Not providing suitable housing/shelter arrangements for a child to live in.
   - Not attending to a child’s physical needs by leaving a child hungry, dirty or not clothed according to the weather requirements.
   - Not attending a child’s medical or psychological appointments.
   - Not providing a child with affection and emotional support.
   - Lack of school attendance.

3. **What Is Physical Abuse?**

   - Any action that causes a child pain or discomfort (i.e. cigarette burns, hot oil).
   - Physical punishment as a way of disciplining a child.
   - Hurting a child by shaking, hitting, beating, slapping, punching or kicking a child.
   - Force feeding a child.
   - Depriving a child of sleep.
   - Allowing a child no recreation time.
   - Chocking, drowning, poisoning or suffocating a child.
   - Delay in seeking medical help if a child is injured, sick or has a disability.
   - Female genital mutilation (FGM) is a form of both physical and emotional abuse.

4. **What Is Sexual Abuse?**

   - Involving a child in any sexual activities of an adult.
   - The Irish law states that a person must be 17 years of age to consent to have sexual intercourse. The age of consent is the same for males and females.
   - Intimidating, forcing or pressurising a child into touching his/her private parts or kissing.
   - Involving a child into inappropriate naked/semi-naked photographs or videos.
   - Sending a child text messages or other online communication with explicit content.
   - Marrying a child to an adult.
   - Forcing a child into prostitution.

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For an extensive list of definitions, please speak to your nearest Duty Social Worker, Garda, GP or Public Nurse.