



CHILD SAFEGUARDING STATEMENT

In accordance with the Children First Act 2015 and Children First: National Guidance for the Protection and Welfare of Children

Date of implementation: 1st September 2026

Date of review: 1st September 2028

1. Name of service being provided

OMNIA Mental Health Clinic, Lower Baggot Street, Dublin, Ireland

OMNIA Mental Health Clinic is a private mental health and psychological services provider offering assessment, psychological and therapeutic services to children, adolescents and adults.

2. Nature of service and principles to safeguard children from harm

OMNIA Mental Health Clinic provides private psychological and mental health services to children, adolescents and adults. Services provided to children and young people may include psychological assessment, ADHD and ASD assessment, educational and occupational assessments, psychological and therapeutic interventions, counselling, play-based therapeutic services, neuropsychological and neuroscience-informed services, qEEG/brain mapping, neurofeedback and other clinically appropriate services delivered by suitably qualified professionals.

Children and young people may attend the clinic for individual appointments, assessments, therapeutic interventions, consultations with parents/guardians, and, where clinically appropriate, online or remote appointments.

OMNIA Mental Health Clinic is committed to ensuring that the welfare and safety of children and young people is paramount in all aspects of service delivery.

OMNIA Mental Health Clinic is committed to:

- providing a safe, respectful and child-centred environment for every child and young person attending the clinic;
- treating every child with dignity, respect and fairness;
- recognising and responding appropriately to concerns relating to the protection and welfare of children;
- ensuring that children are listened to and that their views are taken seriously, having regard to their age and level of understanding;
- ensuring that staff and professionals working with children understand their safeguarding responsibilities;
- ensuring that appropriate safeguarding procedures are in place and implemented in practice;
- recruiting and selecting staff and professionals who are suitable to work with children;

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- ensuring that relevant staff receive appropriate Children First and child safeguarding information and training;
- ensuring that concerns regarding possible abuse or neglect are dealt with promptly and reported to Tusla where required;
- ensuring that mandated persons understand and fulfil their statutory responsibilities under the Children First Act 2015;
- maintaining appropriate professional boundaries between staff, clinicians, children and families;
- protecting children's privacy and confidentiality while recognising that confidentiality cannot prevent the reporting of child protection or welfare concerns where there is a statutory or professional obligation to do so;
- ensuring appropriate safeguards when children participate in online consultations, digital communications or other technology-enabled services;
- ensuring that photographs, recordings and other images of children are not taken, stored or shared without appropriate consent and a legitimate professional purpose;
- working appropriately with parents and guardians while keeping the welfare and best interests of the child central to decision-making; and
- working cooperatively with Tusla, An Garda Síochána and other relevant professionals or agencies where this is necessary to protect a child from harm.

OMNIA Mental Health Clinic recognises that child safeguarding is a shared responsibility. All staff, clinicians, contractors and other individuals working on behalf of the clinic are expected to act in accordance with this Child Safeguarding Statement and the clinic's associated child safeguarding policies and procedures.

The clinic recognises the definition of "harm" contained in the Children First Act 2015, namely assault, ill-treatment or neglect of a child in a manner that seriously affects or is likely to seriously affect the child's health, development or welfare, or sexual abuse of the child.

3. Risk Assessment

OMNIA Mental Health Clinic has carried out an assessment of any potential for harm to a child while availing of its services.

The risk assessment considers the potential for abuse or harm arising from the nature and delivery of the clinic's services. It includes consideration of risks arising from face-to-face clinical contact, one-to-one appointments, interactions with staff and other persons attending the clinic, online services, digital communication, photography and recording, and situations where safeguarding concerns may not be identified or appropriately reported.

The following risks have been identified and the procedures below are in place to manage and reduce those risks.

<i>No.</i>	<i>Risk identified</i>	<i>Procedure in place to manage identified risk</i>
1	Risk of physical, emotional or sexual harm to a child by a member of staff, clinician, contractor or other person working on behalf of OMNIA.	Safe recruitment and selection procedures; appropriate Garda vetting where required; verification of professional qualifications and registration; safeguarding training; professional codes of conduct; clear professional boundaries; supervision; reporting procedures; management of allegations against staff; disciplinary procedures where appropriate.
2	Risk of harm to a child during one-to-one clinical, assessment or therapeutic appointments.	Clinicians follow professional standards and safeguarding procedures; appropriate professional boundaries are maintained; appointments take place in designated clinical areas; parents/guardians are appropriately informed and involved in accordance with the child's age, understanding, clinical needs and applicable confidentiality requirements; concerns are documented and escalated appropriately.
3	Risk of harm arising from inappropriate behaviour, boundary violations or misconduct by a staff member or professional.	Staff code of conduct; professional standards; safeguarding training; supervision; clear boundaries regarding physical contact, communication and relationships with children; procedures for reporting and managing allegations of abuse or misconduct.
4	Risk of harm to a child arising from a visitor, parent, guardian, contractor or other person attending the clinic.	Controlled access to clinical areas; appropriate supervision; staff awareness of safeguarding concerns; children are not left unnecessarily with unauthorised

<i>No.</i>	<i>Risk identified</i>	<i>Procedure in place to manage identified risk</i>
5	Risk that a child protection or welfare concern is not recognised, appropriately documented or reported.	persons; concerns are reported and managed in accordance with safeguarding procedures. Children First training; safeguarding information for staff; designated Relevant Person; identification of mandated persons; clear reporting procedures; consultation with Tusla where appropriate; recording and secure storage of safeguarding concerns; management oversight.
6	Risk of harm to a child through online consultations, email, telephone, messaging, video appointments or other digital communication.	Appropriate online consultation procedures; professional boundaries for digital communication; secure clinic systems; appropriate privacy settings; authorised communication channels; staff training; parental/guardian involvement where appropriate; procedures for identifying and reporting safeguarding concerns arising online.
7	Risk of harm through inappropriate photography, video recording, audio recording or sharing of images or information about children.	No photography, recording or sharing of children's images without appropriate consent and a legitimate professional purpose; secure storage of clinical information; access restricted to authorised persons; confidentiality and data protection procedures.
8	Risk of harm arising from inappropriate social media contact between staff/clinicians and children or young people.	Staff are not permitted to establish inappropriate personal or social media relationships with children attending the clinic; professional communication must take place through approved channels; staff

<i>No.</i>	<i>Risk identified</i>	<i>Procedure in place to manage identified risk</i>
9	Risk of harm arising from inadequate supervision of children while attending the clinic.	are required to maintain appropriate professional boundaries and report concerns. Clear arrangements regarding responsibility for children before, during and after appointments; parents/guardians are informed of attendance arrangements; children are not left unsupervised for inappropriate periods; staff remain alert to safeguarding concerns.
10	Risk of harm by another child or young person attending the service, including bullying or inappropriate behaviour.	Appropriate supervision; professional management of interactions between children; staff awareness of bullying and safeguarding concerns; concerns are documented and addressed promptly; parents/guardians are involved where appropriate.
11	Risk of harm arising from a child disclosing abuse, neglect or another safeguarding concern during an assessment, therapy session or other clinical interaction.	Staff follow the clinic's Child Protection and Welfare Reporting Procedure; disclosures are taken seriously; the child is listened to without leading or investigative questioning; concerns are recorded accurately; mandated persons fulfil their statutory responsibilities; concerns are reported to Tusla in accordance with Children First requirements.
12	Risk of harm arising where a parent/guardian or another person may themselves be a source of risk to the child.	The child's welfare remains paramount; clinicians assess safeguarding concerns independently; information is shared with Tusla or other appropriate authorities where required; confidentiality is

<i>No.</i>	<i>Risk identified</i>	<i>Procedure in place to manage identified risk</i>
		managed in accordance with safeguarding obligations.
13	Risk of harm arising from failure to maintain appropriate professional confidentiality and secure handling of children's personal or clinical information.	Confidentiality and data protection procedures; secure clinical records; restricted access; appropriate information-sharing protocols; staff training; safeguarding exceptions to confidentiality recognised and followed where required.
14	Risk of harm arising from staff or clinicians working with children without adequate safeguarding knowledge or training.	Mandatory/appropriate Children First training; safeguarding induction; access to safeguarding policies and procedures; ongoing training and updates; supervision and management oversight.
15	Risk of harm arising from failure to appropriately manage an allegation of abuse or misconduct against a member of staff or clinician.	Formal procedure for managing allegations of abuse or misconduct against workers; immediate safeguarding consideration; reporting to Tusla and/or An Garda Síochána where appropriate; fair process for all parties; appropriate internal management and professional regulatory processes.
16	Risk of harm arising from inadequate safeguarding arrangements when services are provided remotely or outside the clinic premises.	Online service procedures; appropriate verification of the child's location and emergency contact arrangements where relevant; safeguarding protocols for remote appointments; professional boundaries; procedures for responding to concerns identified during remote sessions.
17	Risk that safeguarding responsibilities are unclear where multiple professionals or	Clear identification of the clinician responsible for the service; appropriate

<i>No.</i>	<i>Risk identified</i>	<i>Procedure in place to manage identified risk</i>
	external services are involved in a child's care.	communication and documentation; safeguarding escalation procedures; cooperation with Tusla and other relevant professionals/agencies where necessary; clarification of roles and responsibilities.

This risk assessment focuses specifically on the risk of harm to children for the purposes of the Children First Act 2015. It does not replace OMNIA Mental Health Clinic's general health and safety risk assessments. Tusla specifies that the safeguarding risk assessment concerns the potential for abuse or harm to a child while availing of the service, rather than general health and safety risks.

4. Procedures

OMNIA Mental Health Clinic's Child Safeguarding Statement has been developed in accordance with the Children First Act 2015, Children First: National Guidance for the Protection and Welfare of Children, and relevant Tusla guidance.

In addition to the procedures identified in the risk assessment above, the following child safeguarding procedures are in place:

4.1 Management of allegations of abuse or misconduct

OMNIA Mental Health Clinic has a procedure for the management of allegations of abuse or misconduct against staff, clinicians, contractors or other persons working with children on behalf of the clinic.

Any allegation or concern will be treated seriously and managed in accordance with Children First, applicable legislation, professional obligations and the clinic's internal procedures.

4.2 Safe recruitment and selection

OMNIA Mental Health Clinic operates appropriate recruitment and selection procedures for individuals working with children.

This includes, as applicable:

- verification of identity;
- verification of qualifications and professional registration;
- obtaining appropriate references;
- Garda vetting where required;
- assessment of suitability to work with children;
- safeguarding information and induction;

- appropriate professional supervision.

4.3 Child safeguarding training and information

OMNIA Mental Health Clinic provides staff and relevant professionals with appropriate information and training regarding child safeguarding, including:

- recognising signs and indicators of abuse and neglect;
- responding appropriately to disclosures;
- reporting child protection and welfare concerns;
- understanding the responsibilities of mandated persons;
- maintaining appropriate professional boundaries;
- online safety and digital safeguarding;
- the role of the Relevant Person.

Training requirements are reviewed periodically and following relevant changes in legislation, national guidance or clinic procedures.

4.4 Reporting child protection and welfare concerns

OMNIA Mental Health Clinic has a procedure for reporting child protection and welfare concerns to Tusla.

Where a concern reaches the threshold requiring a report, it will be reported in accordance with the Children First Act 2015 and Children First: National Guidance.

Mandated persons are responsible for fulfilling their statutory reporting obligations in accordance with the Children First Act 2015.

Where appropriate, advice may be sought from Tusla in relation to a concern before determining the appropriate course of action.

4.5 List of mandated persons

OMNIA Mental Health Clinic maintains a current list of persons working within the service who are mandated persons under the Children First Act 2015.

The list is maintained separately from this Child Safeguarding Statement and is reviewed when staffing arrangements or relevant professional roles change.

Current list of mandated persons: maintained by OMNIA Mental Health Clinic and available to relevant staff as required.

4.6 Appointment of Relevant Person

OMNIA Mental Health Clinic has appointed a Relevant Person who is the first point of contact in respect of this Child Safeguarding Statement.

Relevant Person:



Name: Gerda Paleviciute
Position: Clinic Manger
Telephone: 01-552-01-25
Email: info@omniamentalhealth.com

The Relevant Person is responsible for being the first point of contact regarding the Child Safeguarding Statement and supporting its implementation within the clinic.

4.7 Management of confidential information and records

All child safeguarding information and clinical records are managed in accordance with OMNIA Mental Health Clinic's confidentiality, data protection and information governance procedures.

Information will only be shared where there is an appropriate legal, professional or safeguarding basis for doing so.

Where child protection or welfare concerns arise, safeguarding obligations take precedence over ordinary confidentiality requirements where required by law or national guidance.

4.8 Online safety

OMNIA Mental Health Clinic recognises that children may receive services or communicate with clinicians through online and digital platforms.

The clinic maintains procedures addressing:

- appropriate use of online consultation platforms;
- secure communication;
- professional boundaries;
- privacy and confidentiality;
- parental/guardian involvement where appropriate;
- identification of safeguarding concerns during remote consultations;
- appropriate recording and storage of digital information.

4.9 Professional boundaries

All staff and professionals working with children are expected to maintain appropriate professional boundaries.

This includes boundaries relating to:

- physical contact;
- communication;
- social media;
- personal relationships;
- gifts;
- photography and recording;



- digital communication;
- contact outside the professional setting.

Any behaviour that may place a child at risk or compromise professional boundaries must be reported and managed appropriately.

All procedures referred to in this Child Safeguarding Statement are available to relevant staff and may be made available to parents/guardians or other persons upon request, subject to appropriate confidentiality and data protection considerations.

5. Implementation

OMNIA Mental Health Clinic recognises that child safeguarding is an ongoing process and is committed to the effective implementation of this Child Safeguarding Statement and the procedures that support the protection of children from harm while availing of the clinic's services.

This Child Safeguarding Statement will be:

- made available to all staff and relevant professionals working on behalf of OMNIA Mental Health Clinic;
- displayed in a prominent and accessible location within the clinic;
- made available to parents and guardians upon request;
- made available to Tusla and members of the public upon request;
- reviewed at least every 24 months, or sooner where there has been a material change in the service, legislation, national guidance, staffing or other circumstances relevant to child safeguarding.

Tusla confirms that Child Safeguarding Statements should be publicly displayed and made available to parents/guardians, Tusla and members of the public on request, and that they should be reviewed every two years or sooner where there is a material change.

Review date

This Child Safeguarding Statement will be reviewed on:

1st of September 2028

or as soon as practicable following a material change in any matter to which the Statement refers.

6. Approval and Signatures

Signed on behalf of OMNIA Mental Health Clinic:

Provider: Dr Andrea Pousada-Fitzpatrick

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Name: Dr Andrea Pousada-Fitzpatrick

Position: Owner / Director

Signature:

Date: 1st September 2026

Clinic contact details:

OMNIA Mental Health Clinic, Lower Baggot Street, Dublin 2, Ireland

Telephone: 01-552-01-25

Email: info@omniamentalhealth.com

Website: omniamentalhealth.com

7. Relevant Person

For queries regarding this Child Safeguarding Statement, please contact:

Relevant Person: Gerda Paleviciute

Position: Clinic Manager

Telephone: 01-552-01-25

Email: info@omniamentalhealth.com

The Relevant Person is the first point of contact in respect of OMNIA Mental Health Clinic's Child Safeguarding Statement.

8. Declaration

OMNIA Mental Health Clinic confirms its commitment to safeguarding children and young people and to ensuring, as far as practicable, that children are protected from harm while availing of the services provided by the clinic.

The clinic will continue to review and develop its safeguarding practices in accordance with the Children First Act 2015, Children First: National Guidance for the Protection and Welfare of Children, relevant Tusla guidance, applicable professional standards and any subsequent legislative or regulatory requirements.

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A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be "D. Kelly", written over a light blue rectangular background.

Signed:

For and on behalf of OMNIA Mental Health Clinic

Date: 1st September 2026