



## PCI Counselling Service Child Safeguarding Statement

### Name and Nature of Service

This document contains the Child Safeguarding Statement for PCI Counselling Service in accordance with the requirements of the Children First Act 2015 and Children First: National Guidance for the Protection and Welfare of Children 2017.

PCI Counselling Service provides placement for Trainee Counsellors on counselling and psychotherapy programmes within PCI College and Pre-accredited Therapists who are graduates of the College. PCI Counselling service is available to clients who are aged 18 years and older, however, Employees, Trainee Counsellors, and Pre-accredited Therapists must be alert to the possibility that clients with whom they work with could be victims of historical abuse. Due to the nature of therapy and the therapeutic relationship there is a risk that a Trainee Counsellor and/or Pre-accredited Therapist may receive a disclosure from an adult client in relation to historical or current abuse.

### Commitment to Safeguard Children

PCI Counselling Service is committed to ensuring the protection and welfare of children for whom it is responsible and undertakes to maintain the highest possible standards to meet its responsibility to protect and safeguard those children. PCI Counselling Service will adhere to the following principles of best practice in child protection and welfare.

- Recognise that the protection and welfare of children is of paramount importance, regardless of all other considerations.
- Fully comply with its statutory obligation under the Children First Act 2015 and other relevant legislation relating to the protection and welfare of children.
- Fully cooperate with the relevant statutory authorities in relation to child protection and welfare matters.
- Fully ensure all PCI Counselling Service stakeholders are familiar with the PCI Counselling Service Child Protection Policy.
- Fully respect confidentiality requirements in dealing with child protection matters.

### Risk Assessment

In accordance with the Children First Act 2015, PCI Counselling Service has carried out an assessment of the potential for harm to a child while working with a PCI Counselling Service Trainee Therapist or Pre-accredited Therapist.

### Procedure

The following procedures are in place:

- Making a Report to the Designated Liaison Person
- Making a Report to Tusla
- Allegations of Child Abuse against an Employee, Trainee Therapist or Pre-accredited Therapist

- Retrospective Disclosure of Child Abuse by an Adult
- Disclosure of Child Abuse to an Employee, Trainee Therapist or Pre-accredited Therapist
- Disclosure from Another Person
- Appointing a DLP

These procedures can be found in the PCI Counselling Child Protection Policy. [https://pcicollege.ie/page/file\\_dwn/241/Counselling%20Service%20Child%20Protection%20Policy%20\[48\].pdf](https://pcicollege.ie/page/file_dwn/241/Counselling%20Service%20Child%20Protection%20Policy%20[48].pdf)

### **Designated Liaison Person**

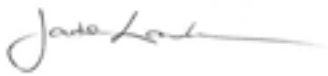
The Designated Liaison Person/Child Protection Officer is Georgina Kennedy.  
The Deputy Designated Liaison Person/Child Protection Officer is Louise Brennan.

### **Implementation**

PCI Counselling Service recognises that implementation is an ongoing process. We are committed to the implementation of this Child Safeguarding Statement and the procedures that support our intentions to keep children safe from harm.

This Child Safeguarding Statement will be reviewed every two years or as soon as practicable after there has been a material change in any matter to which the statement refers.

Signed: \_\_\_\_\_



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