

Catholic Family Support Services

Child Protection Policy

SECTION ONE: POLICY STATEMENT

1. OVERVIEW

Catholic Family Support Services is committed to the care and protection of the child and young person; therefore the safety, welfare and interests of the child and young person are the first paramount consideration at all times.

This policy applies to all children who are clients of this organisation, and to those with whom personnel meet in the course of their work with the organisation.

- It applies to staff and management of the organisation.
- It also applies to tertiary students and any other personnel who are providing support services for Catholic Family Support.
- The Manager is the designated Person for Child Protection in the agency, and will provide support and guidance to staff on concerns about the protection of children, or in relation to this policy.

1.1 DOCUMENTS THAT RELATE TO THE COMPREHENSIVE CHILD PROTECTION POLICY

1. The child protection policy is to be used in conjunction with the following existing policies:
 - Catholic Family Support Services Key Operating Policies and Procedures Manual including Diocesan Staff Policy Manual 2012
 - Complaints Policy
 - Supervised Contact Policy
2. This child protection policy refers to the following Handbooks for the recognition of abuse and neglect:
 - Breaking the Cycle
 - Safer Organisations, Safer Children
 - Working together
3. This child protection policy adheres to the following Acts:
 - Children Young Persons and their Families Act 1989
 - Vulnerable Children Act 2014
 - Privacy Act
 - Human Rights Act 1993
 - Domestic Violence Act 1995
 - Care of Children Act 2004
 - Employment Relations Act 2000
 - Code of Health and Disability Services Consumers' Rights
 - New Zealand Association of Social Work

1. PURPOSE STATEMENT

This Child Protection policy is intended to protect children who access the services of Catholic Family Support Services from abuse and neglect. It ensures that staff employed by Catholic Family support services are able to respond appropriately to potential child protection concerns, including suspected abuse or neglect.

2. SCOPE

This policy applies to all staff employed by Catholic Family Support Services, and it applies to all children encountered by staff as they provide our services.

4. PRINCIPLES

- This policy recognises children, young people and vulnerable adults have a right to be safe from abuse and harm.
- Catholic Family Support Services is committed to the prevention of abuse and to the well-being of members, children, young people, vulnerable adults and their families.
- The organisation is committed to acting at all times in the best interest of the children, young people and vulnerable adults to whom it provides a service
- The organisation recognises that the family's primary role in caring and protecting the child should be valued and maintained. However, the child's safety should have priority.
- Families have the right to be involved in decision making about their children unless this would put the child at risk
- The organisation acknowledges that in cases of suspected child abuse, support for families is important.
- The organisation recognises the importance of the culture in the family, and will be respectful of that culture.
- We will work together with other cultural groups, including iwi, Pasifika and migrant groups as appropriate, to ensure the best out outcome for clients.
- The organisation will work collaboratively with other organisations to ensure that the best outcome for the child and family is obtained.
- The organisation will share information in a timely way, and discuss any concerns about an individual child with colleagues, and the Manager (the Designated Person for Child Protection.)
- The organisation agrees that working in accordance with this policy requires staff to be trained and supported.
- The organisation is committed to complying with all relevant legislation.

5. DEFINITIONS

5.1 Child Abuse is the harming (whether physically, emotionally, or sexually), ill-treatment, abuse, neglect or deprivation of any child or young person.

5.2 Children and Young People

For the purposes of this policy, children are those under the age of 14. Young people are those from 14 and up to the age of 17.

5.3 Child Protection

Activities carried out to ensure that children are safe in cases where there is suspected abuse or neglect, or the risk of abuse and neglect.

5.4 Client

An adult or young person who is willing being supported by staff at Catholic Family Support Service.

5.5 Designated Person for Child Protection

The Manager will be responsible for providing advice and support to staff where they have a concern about an individual child, or who want advice about the child protection policy.

5.6 Disclosure

Information given to a staff member by the child, parent or caregiver, or a third party in relation to abuse and neglect.

5.7 Physical Abuse

Any acts that may result in physical harm to a child or young person

5.8 Sexual Abuse

Any acts that involve forcing or enticing a child to take part in sexual activities, including child sexual exploitation, whether or not they are aware of what is happening

5.9 Emotional Abuse

Any act or omission that results in adverse or impaired psychological, social, intellectual, and emotional functioning or development

5.10 Neglect

The persistent failure to meet a child's basic physical or psychological needs, leading to adverse or impaired physical or emotional functioning or development.

5.11 Child Youth and family

The agency responsible for investigating and responding to suspected abuse and neglect, and to provide care and protection for children found to be in need.

5.12 NZ Police

The agency responsible for working with Child Youth and Family in child protection work and investigating cases of abuse and neglect where an offence may have occurred.

5.13 Safety means that children in the care of Catholic Family Support Services are not exposed to a risk of abuse or neglect that could reasonably have been predicted or prevented by the organisation.

5.14 Supervised Contact

Access by a parent or parents or other significant person to the child in the presence of an independent third party within a safe environment.

5.15 Staff means all persons employed or engaged (including volunteers) by an Catholic Family Support services

5.16 ANZASCS Aotearoa New Zealand Association for Supervised Contact Services

5.17 ANZASW Aotearoa New Zealand Association of Social Work

6. RESPONSIBILITIES

The Manager is the designated person who is responsible for this Child Protection Policy

7. REVIEW

The manager in consultation with the staff will review the policies that make up this comprehensive child protection policy every three years.

Last Review date: June 2015

Next Review date: June 2018
