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Ref: L05/2018 – Children First Act

8<sup>th</sup> March 2018

Dear Group Leader

I write regarding the implementation of the Children First Act 2015.

In line with the above act, all relevant organisations, including Scouting Ireland must prepare a Child Safeguarding Statement. This written statement specifies the services being provided and the principles and procedures to be observed to ensure as far as practicable that the children availing of Scouting is safe from harm.

It must also include an assessment of risk of harm to a Young Person who is engaged in Scouting activities, and the procedures in place to manage any identified risks. This statement must be circulated to all volunteers and displayed in all buildings that Scouting takes place in whether you own the building or not. It must be made available to parents, guardians Tusla and members of the Public.

The Child Safeguarding Statement should be printed by you and displayed immediately, If you are using a building not owned by you; you are obliged to ensure that your Safeguarding Statement is put up for the duration of the meeting / event.

[PLEASE DOWNLOAD THE SCOUTING IRELAND SAFEGUARDING STATEMENT FROM HERE](#)

You are obliged to carry out a risk assessment and this should be done at your next Group Council, your Provincial Support Officer (PSO) or Group Support Facilitator (GSF) will be in contact with you to over the next month to offer any support required. The sample Risk assessment may not cover all the risks to children in your Scout Group, if you identify further risks please add them to the Risk Assessment document.

[PLEASE DOWNLOAD THE SCOUTING IRELAND SAMPLE RISK ASSESSMENT FROM HERE](#)

Please do not hesitate to contact your PSO/GSF should you need any assistance or clarification on the above.

Wishing you continued good Scouting.

Yours in Scouting

**John Lawlor**  
CEO Scouting Ireland

CC:

Group Leaders (ROI Scout Groups Only)  
County Commissioners (ROI Scout Counties Only)  
Members of the National Management Committee  
Scouting Ireland Professional Staff

Reg. No. 397094  
Charity No. CHY3507

PATRON Michael D. Higgins PRESIDENT OF IRELAND



Member of World Organisation of the Scout Movement

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