Child Safeguarding Statement – Murder One Family and Schools' Events

1/ Service being provided:
Literary events aimed at families and schools - children and young people aged 9 to 15 and their parents, guardians, carers and teachers.

2/ Nature of service and principles to safeguard children from harm:

The Murder One Crime Writing Festival is an Irish literary festival with a focus on crime writing. It is programmed by Vanessa Fox O'Loughlin and its parent company is The Inkwell Group. The family and schools' events are programmed and run (in 2024) by Sarah Webb. In 2024 it will be presented in association with dlr Lexicon Library, Dún Laoghaire, the venue for all the family and schools' events.

Murder One is dedicated to providing excellent book related and author events for families and schools. They run the following types of events for families and schools (a 'general audience' as defined by the Arts Council). Children and young people are always accompanied by their parents/guardians, carers or teachers at the Murder One events.

Our events bring us into direct contact with children and young people (with their parents/guardians, carers or teachers). This falls within the meaning of the term 'relevant services' under the Children First Act 2015.

List of events which bring Murder One in contact with children:

- In person book events for families in dlr Lexicon library, Dún Laoghaire (booked by the parents or guardians, attended by families together)
- In person creative workshops for families in dlr Lexicon library, Dún Laoghaire (booked by the parents or guardians, attended by families together)
- School events at dlr Lexicon library, Dún Laoghaire, (booked by the teachers, attended by the teachers with their class)

Murder One takes a child-centered approach to every family and schools' event we programme and deliver. We are committed to ensuring that all our workshops and events are suitable for the age they are aimed at and that our staff or volunteers are well informed in relation to child safeguarding, how to manage the risk of harm and what the procedures are for reporting an incident.

Murder One is committed to ensuring that no child or young person is harmed, or placed at risk of harm, through their association with us.

3/ We have carried out an assessment of any potential for harm to a child while availing of our services. See below for details

4/ Procedures

Our Child Safeguarding Statement has been developed in line with requirements under the Children First Act 2015, *Children First: National Guidance for the Protection and Welfare of Children* (2017), and Tusla's *Child Safeguarding: A Guide for Policy, Procedure and Practice*. In addition to the procedures listed in our risk assessment, the following procedures support our intention to safeguard children while they are availing of our service:

These procedures include:

- Procedure for the management of allegations of abuse or misconduct against workers/volunteers of a child availing of our service;
- Procedure for the safe recruitment and selection of workers and volunteers to work with children;
- Procedure for provision of and access to child safeguarding training and information, including the identification of the occurrence of harm;
- Procedure for the reporting of child protection or welfare concerns to Tusla;
- Procedure for maintaining a list of the persons (if any) in the relevant service who are mandated persons;
- Procedure for appointing a relevant person

All procedures listed are detailed in our Child Protection Policy which is publicly available on our website or can be sent by email on request.

5/ Implementation

We recognise that implementation is an on-going process. Our organisation is committed to the implementation of this Child Safeguarding Statement and the procedures that support our intention to keep children safe from harm while availing of our services.

This Child Safeguarding Statement will be reviewed on 1 September 2025 or as soon as practicable after there has been a material change in any matter to which the statement refers.

Signed:

Vanessa Fox O'Loughlin, Murder One

For queries, please contact Sarah Webb, Relevant Person under the Children First Act 2015.
Phone: 087 285382
Email: vanessa@writing.ie

Child Safeguarding Risk Assessment

In accordance with section 11 of the Children First Act 2015, the following is the risk assessment for Murder One.
In the risk assessment below, Murder One staff refers to all core staff members who work with the festival.

1/ List of activities which bring Murder One in contact with children:

- In person book events for families at dlr Lexicon Library, Dún Laoghaire (booked by the parents or guardians, attended by families together)
- In person creative workshops for families at dlr Lexicon Library, Dún Laoghaire (booked by the parents or guardians, attended by families together)
- School events at dlr Lexicon Library, Dún Laoghaire (booked by the teachers, attended by the teachers with their class)

2/ Murder One has identified the following risk of harm in respect of its activities.
School Events

- Lack of awareness around the area of child protection (speakers)
- Lack of awareness around the area of child protection (staff and volunteers)
- Inappropriate content in an event
- Inappropriate images in an event
- Children or young people being left alone with a speaker or staff member

In person family events

- Lack of awareness around the area of child protection (speakers)
- Lack of awareness around the area of child protection (staff and volunteers)
- Inappropriate content in an event or workshop
- Inappropriate images in an event or workshop
- Children or young people being left alone with a speaker or staff member

3/ Murder One has the following procedures in place to address and manage the risks of harm identified in this assessment
Digital Events

- All our in-person events and workshops are suitable for the age and the abilities of the children and young people they are aimed at
  All speakers in the family and schools events programme will be made aware of our Safeguarding Statement
- All staff members have been advised to take the Tusla Children First e-learning programme. We have discussed child protection at a staff meeting and have involved staff members working on events in the risk assessment.
- All staff members have been provided with a copy of the Murder One Child Safeguarding Statement
- Family Events - Our in-person events are aimed at families. The events are booked by a parent or guardian and a parent or guardian must attend with the child or young person under the age of 18.
- School Events will only be run where there is at least one class teacher attending with every class. During school events children or young people will never be alone with a speaker or staff member. During book signings at school events there will be at least 1 adult at all times at the signing desk with the author or illustrator.
- Children or young people will not be allowed to attend a Murder One family event unless there is a parent or guardian with them. During book signings at family events there will be at least 1 adult at all times at the signing desk with the author or illustrator (their parent/guardian will also be with them).

Murder One is aware that children cannot be photographed without parental/guardian/caregiver consent and any images used on social media must avoid showing a child's face unless written consent is obtained.

- Murder One social media (Twitter, Instagram and Facebook) is aimed at adults (parents and teachers) and no correspondence with children will be entered into via our social media platforms. We will never knowingly communicate directly with children or young people.
- The Murder One Child Safeguarding Statement will be available on the festival's website for all to read.