

Mandatory reporting, CISS & FVISS

Information sheet

This information sheet has been developed to demonstrate how Victoria’s Information Sharing Schemes expand existing legal permissions for professionals to share and request information from other professionals to keep children and victim survivors safe.

This table outlines mandatory reporting, the Child Information Sharing Scheme (CISS) and the Family Violence Information Sharing Scheme (FVISS) as complementary tools for professionals that can be used separately or together, depending on the situation.

	Mandatory reporting	CISS	FVISS
Legislation	<i>The Children, Youth and Families Act (Vic) 2005</i>	<i>Part 6A of the Child Wellbeing and Safety Act (Vic) 2005</i>	<i>Part 5A of the Family Violence Protection Act (Vic) 2008</i>
Intent	<p>“The legal requirement for certain professional groups to report a reasonable belief of child physical or sexual abuse to child protection authorities.”¹</p>	<p>Enables prescribed information sharing entities (ISEs) to share information with each other about a child, a relevant family member of that child, or any other person to promote the broader wellbeing and/or safety of a child or a group of children.</p> <p>In considering the wellbeing of a child, professionals should use their professional judgement and consider the context in which they work with the child.</p>	<p>Enables prescribed information sharing entities (ISEs) to share relevant information about a person (including adults and children) who is a victim survivor, perpetrator or third party, to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Establish and Assess risk (family violence assessment purpose) • Manage the risk, including through ongoing risk assessment (family violence protection purpose) <p>The Scheme supports ISEs to keep perpetrators in view and accountable and promote the safety of victim survivors of family violence.</p>

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When to use	<p>A child may need protection if they have experienced or are at risk of significant harm, and their parents have not protected, are unable or are unlikely to protect them from that harm (this may stem from the impacts of an adult's violent behaviour on a non-violent parent and their child).</p> <p>Significant harm may relate to physical injury, sexual abuse, or emotional or intellectual development, physical development or health, abandonment, or parental incapacity.</p> <p>"Mandatory reporters are required to report in relation to significant harm as a result of physical injury or sexual abuse. They may choose, as can anyone, to report in relation to other types of significant harm."²</p>	<p>To make a decision, an assessment or a plan relating to a child or a group of children, to initiate or conduct an investigation relating to a child or group of children, to provide a service relating to a child or group of children, to manage any risk to a child or group of children.</p> <p>Factors to consider that impact on a child's wellbeing and safety include (and are not limited to):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Physical, psychological, and emotional health • Access to and engagement with supportive services • Engagement in supportive relationships and connection to culture • Involvement in activities that will foster development • Access to resources for learning and development • Access to safe accommodation and nourishment • A safe and stable environment in which to live, learn and grow³ 	<p>Where family violence is suspected or occurring.</p> <p>"Family and domestic violence is any violent, threatening, coercive or controlling behaviour that occurs in current or past family, domestic or intimate relationships."⁴ It can include physical, verbal, psychological, sexual and socio-economic violence.</p> <p>Use FVISS to share information about:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A perpetrator • An alleged perpetrator • An adolescent using, or at risk of using, family violence • An adult victim survivor • A child victim survivor • A third party

¹ State Government of Victoria (2023) Mandatory Reporting, Vic.gov.au, accessed November 1, 2023.

<<https://providers.dffh.vic.gov.au/mandatory-reporting>>

² Ibid.

³ State Government of Victoria (2022) Understanding Child Wellbeing, Vic.gov.au, accessed November 1, 2023.

<<https://www.vic.gov.au/child-wellbeing>>

⁴ State Government of Victoria (2022) What is Family Violence, Vic.gov.au, accessed 17 January 2024. < <https://www.vic.gov.au/what-family-violence>>

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