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Significant harm policy definition

Members of the general community who suspect that a child or young person is at risk of significant harm (the new statutory threshold) should report their concerns to the Child Protection Helpline on **132 111**. This statutory threshold has replaced risk of harm in the *Children and Young Persons (Care and Protection) Act 1998*.

Mandatory reporters should now consult the [Mandatory Reporter Guide](#). If significant harm is indicated after following the steps in the Guide, they should contact the Child Protection Helpline on **133 627**.

Agreed policy definition of significant harm







What is meant by "significant" in the phrase "to a significant extent" is that which is sufficiently serious to warrant a response by a statutory authority, irrespective of a family's consent.

What is significant is not minor or trivial, and may reasonably be expected to produce a substantial and demonstrably adverse impact on the child's or young person's safety, welfare, or wellbeing.

In the case of an unborn child, what is significant is not minor or trivial and may reasonably be expected to produce a substantial and demonstrably adverse impact on the child.



Quicklinks

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