

# Protecting children and young people within a family context

Section 162 of the *Children, Youth and Families Act 2005* (Vic) defines our legal responsibility to act to protect children and young people who have suffered, or are likely to suffer, harm from physical abuse, emotional or psychological abuse, sexual abuse and neglect.

Section 162(1) defines the circumstances when a child is in need of protection from abuse.

## 162. When is a child in need of protection?

- (1) For the purposes of this Act a child is in need of protection if any of the following grounds exist –
- (c) the child has suffered, or is likely to suffer, significant harm as a result of physical injury and the child's parents have not protected, or are unlikely to protect, the child from harm of that type;
  - (d) the child has suffered, or is likely to suffer, significant harm as a result of sexual abuse and the child's parents have not protected, or are unlikely to protect, the child from harm of that type;
  - (e) the child has suffered or is likely to suffer emotional or psychological harm of such a kind that the child's emotional or intellectual development is, or is likely to be, significantly damaged and the child's parents have not protected, or are unlikely to protect, the child from harm of that type;

## USEFUL RESOURCES

*Children, Youth and Families Act 2005* (Vic) s 162 ('When is a child in need of protection?').

[http://www.austlii.edu.au/cgi-bin/viewdoc/au/legis/vic/consol\\_act/cyafa2005252/s162.html](http://www.austlii.edu.au/cgi-bin/viewdoc/au/legis/vic/consol_act/cyafa2005252/s162.html)



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*The Archdiocese is committed to the safety, wellbeing and dignity  
of all children, young people and vulnerable adults.*