



Diocese of Ossory Safeguarding Children INFORMATION FOR YOUNG PEOPLE

We believe that every child is precious and has a right to be kept safe from harm or abuse. Every adult in the church has to help keep children safe by following the Diocesan Policy for Safeguarding Children.



If you are concerned please contact:

Kathleen Sherry, Designated Liaison Person Phone: 085 8021633 Email: dlp@ossory.ie

Rose Brophy, Deputy Designated Liaison Person Phone: 087 331 4330

GARDA NATIONAL PROTECTIVE SERVICES BUREAU

01 6663430/35 1800 555 222

TUSLA CHILD & FAMILY AGENCY

Kilkenny & Carlow area - 052 617 7302

Laois & Offaly - 044 935 3997

Waterford - 053 9198201

Who is a vulnerable adult?

A vulnerable adult is a person over 18 who lacks or has seriously impaired capacity either to make informed decisions, or to defend him or herself from harm.

What is safeguarding?

Safeguarding is the term used to express measures to protect the health, well-being and human rights of individuals which allow people to live free from abuse, harm, and neglect.

Why do we safeguard?

As a constituent member of the Catholic Church in Ireland we recognise and uphold the dignity and rights of all vulnerable adults. We are committed to ensuring their safety and well-being and will work in partnership with vulnerable adults and those who support them to do this.

We recognise every individual as a gift from God and we value and encourage the participation of vulnerable adults in all activities that enhance their spiritual, physical, emotional, intellectual and social development.

All priests, staff, and volunteers have a responsibility to ensure that all vulnerable adult members of every parish are protected from harm and abuse when participating in Church activities and to ensure that any concerns or allegations of abuse are responded to promptly.

What is abuse?

Abuse may be defined as:

“Any act, or failure to act, which results in a breach of a vulnerable person’s human rights, civil liberties, physical and mental integrity, dignity or general well-being, whether intended or through negligence, including sexual relationships or financial transactions to which the person does not or cannot validly consent, or which are deliberately exploitative. Abuse may take a variety of forms.” (HIQA 2013).

Abuse can take many forms. It may include:

Physical abuse

The use of physical force, the threat of physical force or mistreatment of one person by another which may or may not result in actual physical harm or injury. This can include being hit, kicked, pinched, being locked in a room or inappropriate restraint.

Sexual abuse

Any behaviour (physical, psychological, verbal, virtual/online) perceived to be of a sexual nature which is controlling, coercive, exploitative, harmful, or unwanted towards another person, such as being made to take part in a sexual activity when the adult has not given or is not able to give their consent.

Emotional/Psychological abuse

(including bullying/harassment) includes behaviour that is psychologically harmful to another person, and which inflicts anxiety or mental distress by threat, humiliation, or other verbal/non-verbal conduct.

Financial or material abuse such as theft, exploitation, pressure in connection financial matters or misuse of someone finances.

Institutional abuse is the mistreatment people brought about by poor or inadequate care or support or systemic poor practice affect a whole care setting.

Neglect involves the failure to provide care or support that results in someone being harmed.

Discriminatory abuse involves unequal treatment, harassment or abuse based on gender identity, sexual orientation, disability race or religious belief, family status or ethnic group.

Online or digital abuse is an abusive or exploitative interaction occurring in a social media or online context.

Human Trafficking/ Modern Slavery is the acquisition and movement of people by improper means, such as force, threat, or deception, for the purposes of exploiting them. It can take the form of domestic servitude, forced criminality, forced labour, sexual exploitation and organ harvesting.

Domestic violence is when abuse occurs between partners or by a family member, often called domestic violence.

Self-neglect is when an adult declines essential support with their care and support needs this is having a substantial impact on their overall well-being.

Coercive Control is a pattern of behaviour is designed to exert control over another person.

Remember:

- abuse is always wrong;
- if you are concerned about someone let them know that help is available;
- try to include the person in the decision to seek help.

If a vulnerable adult discloses abuse

DO

- stay calm and listen. Reassure the person they did the right thing in telling you;
- if urgent help is needed call the emergency services;
- ensure the safety of the person and be aware that forensic evidence might be needed;
- let the person know that the information will be taken seriously and passed on to the Diocesan Designated Liaison Person;
- record in writing (date and sign your record) and report to the Designated Liaison Person for the Diocese without delay;
- let the person know that the DLP will keep them informed.

DO NOT

- stop someone disclosing to you;
- promise to keep secret what they tell you;
- press the person for more details or make them repeat the story;
- gossip about the disclosure or pass any information about this to anyone who does not have a legitimate need to know.

Whom to contact with a Concern

If you have a safeguarding concern about a vulnerable adult please contact:

Diocese of Ossory

Diocesan Designated Liaison Person (DLP)

Kathleen Sherry Tel: 085 8021633

Email: dlp@ossory.ie or

Deputy DLP's: Rose Brophy Tel: 087 3314330 and Cathal Cullen Tel: 056 7762448 (Diocesan Office)

Civil Authorities

HSE Safeguarding and Protection teams:

Carlow, Kilkenny, Waterford, South Tipperary:

Tel: 056 7784325

Email: safeguarding.ch05@hse.ie

Laois, Offaly: Tel 01 6914632

Email: safeguarding.ch08@hse.ie

Gardaí

If you are experiencing abuse which is placing you or someone you know in immediate danger, you should contact the Gardaí at 999/ 112

If a person you know is being mistreated but is not in immediate danger you can report this to your local Garda station.

Anyone with information regarding a crime can ring the Garda Confidential Telephone Number 1800 666 111

The Garda Confidential line allows the public to call with confidential information relating to matters of abuse, crime or other activities.

A SAFEGUARDING CONCERN

If you have a safeguarding concern or wish to raise a safeguarding matter from the past you may contact any of the following:

DIOCESAN DIRECTOR OF SAFEGUARDING AND DIOCESAN DESIGNATED LIAISON PERSON (DLP)

Ms. Kathleen Sherry 085 802 1633

Email: dlp@ossory.ie

DEPUTY DESIGNATED LIAISON PERSON'S

Ms. Rose Brophy 087 331 4330

Mr. Cathal Cullen 056 7762448 (Diocesan Office)

Garda National Protective Services Bureau

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Tusla Child & Family Agency

Kilkenny & Carlow area - 052 617 7302

Laois & Offaly - 044 935 3997

Waterford - 053 9198201

HSE Safeguarding Vulnerable Adults

Carlow, Kilkenny, Waterford:

Email: safeguarding.cho5@hse.ie (056)778 325

Laois & Offaly:

Email: safeguarding.cho8@hse.ie (01) 691 4632

Towards Healing

A free and confidential counselling service for survivors of institutional, clerical, and religious abuse. Tel: 1800 303416 www.towardshealing.ie

Towards Peace

Spiritual support for survivors of abuse by Catholic Church personnel in Ireland.

Tel: 01 5053028

www.towardspeace.ie

Data Protection Notice

The personal data collected on this form will only be used to process complaints received by the Diocese or a Parish. The information may be shared with the appropriate Diocesan personnel and will be retained for as long as is required and then securely deleted.

November 2021

Diocese of Ossory

Parish Activities

Information

and

Guidance

for

Parents, Guardians, Children, Vulnerable Adults and those working in parishes.

Further information on safeguarding best practice in your parish is available from your Local Safeguarding Representative

OR

www.ossory.ie

www.safeguarding.ie.

Introduction

The Diocese of Ossory values and encourages the participation of young people and vulnerable adults in parish activities. We recognise each person as a gift from God, and we value and encourage participation of children/young people and vulnerable adults in all activities that enhance their spiritual, physical, emotional, intellectual, and social development.

The Diocese undertakes to do all that is possible to create a safe environment for young people and vulnerable adults and to ensure their protection from neglect, physical, sexual, and emotional abuse.

All safeguarding policies and procedures are in line with the National Board for Safeguarding Children in the Catholic Church in Ireland's (NBSCCCI) "Safeguarding Children Policy and Standards for the Catholic Church in Ireland" which comply with *Children First Safeguarding Guidelines*.

The following are an indication of the safeguarding measures in place:

- two people are assigned the role of Local Safeguarding Representative in each parish;
- all priests, staff and volunteers working with young people and vulnerable adults are carefully recruited, selected, trained, and supported;
- Codes of Conduct for adults and children/young people are in place;
- there is an appointment of designated persons for each activity.
- at a minimum two adults must be present for each activity in adherence with the safeguarding supervisory requirements;
- attendance registers must be used and maintained safely and securely.

Code of Conduct for Adults Working with Children / Young People or Vulnerable Adults

It is important that all priests, staff and volunteers in contact with children/young people and vulnerable adults:

- be aware of safeguarding policies and procedures and their responsibility for the safety of all in their care;
- treat all children and vulnerable persons equally and with respect and dignity regardless of ability, ethnic origin, cultural background, sexual orientation, or religion;
- model positive, appropriate behaviour at all times;
- report all safeguarding concerns you may have;
- work in an open environment and develop a culture of honesty and safety where children and vulnerable adults have permission to tell and speak about any concern or worries that they may have;
- help children and vulnerable adults to know what they can do if they have a problem;
- respect each person's boundaries and support children and vulnerable adults to develop their own understanding and sense of their rights.

Safeguarding Policies and Procedures are available on the Diocesan Website under Safeguarding.
www.ossory.ie.

Complaint Form

Complaints arising during a Church related activity should attempt to be resolved by discussion between the parties involved. If this is not possible, this form should be completed and sent to your local parish priest or if the matter is unresolved at parish level sent to the Bishop of Ossory, Diocesan Office, James's Street, Kilkenny, R95 NH60.

Name of person making the complaint: _____

Email: _____

Telephone Number: _____

Name of Parish: _____

Date: _____

Details of complaint continue on a separate page if necessary): _____

Received by _____

Date: _____

If your complaint concerns any form of abuse, please contact the DLP. See details overleaf.

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