



Missionary Society of St Columban

Dalغان Park, Navan, Co. Meath



Safeguarding Newsletter, Region of Ireland

Issue 3: July 2018

Welcome

We in the Region of Ireland continue to strive to avoid becoming complacent in the area of safeguarding. We continue to reach out to those whose lives have been so terribly affected by this abuse.

The topic of abuse within the Church continues to receive wide media coverage.

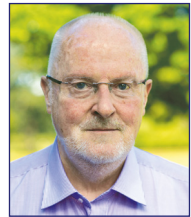
The purpose of our Safeguarding newsletter is to raise awareness of these issues and to keep you updated on any current happenings.

Early this year here in Dalغان we attended an information session on mandated persons from the Children First Act (Tusla). You will find more information on this topic in the newsletter.

We hope this newsletter will contribute in further building our awareness so we can in turn assist people to make our Church environment one of the safest places for children; "Let the children come to me and don't stop them, for the Kingdom of God belongs to such as these" (Mark 10. 13-14).

I wish to thank all those who have helped in making our environment a safe place. We should always remain vigilant. The Safeguarding committee has worked well throughout the year to ensure we meet our statutory and Church requirements. I very much appreciate all the work they do.

Fr Pat Raleigh ssc
Regional Director



If you have a safeguarding concern please contact: **Sandra Neville**, Designated Liaison Person, Email: sandra.neville@columban.ie or Mobile: 087 9844779

Or you can report your concern directly to: An Garda Síochána Helpline, Tel: 1800 555 222, and, TUSLA (Child and Family Agency) Tel: 046 909 7870.

Children First Act 2015

The remaining sections of the Children's First Act 2015 were implemented in December 2017. This Act places a number of statutory obligations on specific groups of professionals and on particular organisations providing services to children. The Children First: National Guidance for the Protection and Welfare of Children was revised in 2017.



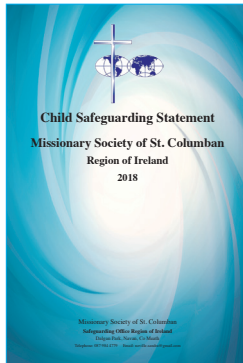
This guidance is intended to assist people whether they are a member of the public, a professional, employee or volunteer in identifying and reporting child abuse and neglect, and to deal effectively with these concerns. It also sets out the statutory responsibilities for mandated persons and organisations under the Children First Act 2015 and provides information about how the statutory agencies respond to reports of concerns made by children.

You can view this document on www.columbans.ie under the safeguarding section.

Children Safeguarding Statement

The Children First Act 2015 requires organisations to prepare a Child Safeguarding Statement. This is a written statement that specifies the service being provided and the principles and procedures to be observed in order to ensure, as far as practicable, that a child availing of the service is safe from harm.

This statement is displayed in the reception area.



• Mandatory reporting: Each of us has a duty to notify the statutory authorities of suspicion, concerns, knowledge or allegations that a child may be being or has been abused:

- physically
- emotionally
- sexually
- psychologically
- or in any way in which a report and should be consulted with in relation to a child or family
- An appropriate level of staff should be consulted with regarding the signs and symptoms of potential child abuse
- Child protection is a statutory, independent activity. Agencies and professionals must co-operate in the interests of the children.

AN EXAMINATION OF POTENTIAL HARM TO CHILDREN WHILE AVAILING OF OUR SERVICES

Risk identified	Procedure in place to manage risk identified
Child environment for children, young and adult	Section 5 Developing a Culture of Safeguarding, Safeguarding Policy & Procedures 2017, Irish Region
Those that work with Children young and adult	Appendix 1 Recruitment & Selection 2017, Safeguarding Policy & Procedures 2017, Irish Region
Those that work with Children young and adult in facilities such as residential care and other	Section 7 Developing a Culture of Safeguarding, Safeguarding Policy & Procedures 2017, Irish Region
Those that work with Children young and adult in residential care	Appendix 2 Code of Behaviour for Adults (2016) Safeguarding Policy & Procedures 2017, Irish Region
The procedures for safeguarding children that to be implemented	Appendix 3 Policy & Compliance 2017 Safeguarding Policy & Procedures 2017, Irish Region
External people who work for the facility's residents who work for the	Appendix 4 The Visit (2016) Safeguarding Policy & Procedures 2017, Irish Region
Personnel that report an allegation, suspicion, concern or knowledge	Appendix 11 Reporting Concerns (2016) Safeguarding Policy & Procedures 2017, Irish Region
The Church authority that to ensure the appointment of relevant people involve in a list of mandated	Appendix 12 and 14 Safeguarding Policy & Procedures 2017, Irish Region

PROCEDURES

The procedure listed above are available also on www.psmr.ie

- Procedure for the management of allegations of abuse or misconduct against staff and volunteers
- Procedure to provide of care services (child safeguarding training and awareness)
- Procedure for the handling of child protection or welfare concerns
- Procedure for the handling of child protection or welfare concerns to staff
- Procedure for the handling of child protection or welfare concerns to staff

IMPLEMENTATION

The Region of Ireland, Missionary Society of St Columban recognise that implementation is an ongoing process. Our service is committed to safeguarding children through the implementation of the Region of Ireland Policy and Safeguarding Children Policy and Standards for the Catholic Church in Ireland 2018. The Catholic Safeguarding and the practice support for the ability to keep children safe from within is our priority.

As part of our annual audit against the relevant indicators of the child safeguarding standards, we will monitor the effectiveness of our practice as outlined in the statement and will issue an implementation plan where necessary.

Signed: _____
Date: 20th March 2018

**NBSCCCI Mandated Persons
(Republic of Ireland only)**

Mandated persons are people who have contact with children and/or families and who, because of their qualifications, training and/or employment role, are in a key position to help protect children from harm. The full list of people who are classified as mandated persons under the Act is in Schedule 2.

Within a Church context a mandated person is a member of clergy and a pastoral care worker, or someone involved in child safeguarding

Mandated persons have two main legal obligations under the Children First Act 2015.

These are:

1. To report to Tusla harm to children that is above a defined threshold; and
2. If requested, to assist Tusla in assessing a concern which has been the subject of a mandated report.

Section 14(1) of the Children First Act 2015 states: *...where a mandated person knows, believes or has reasonable grounds to suspect, on the basis of information that he or she has received, acquired or becomes aware of in the course of his or her employment or profession as such a mandated person, that a child – (a) has been harmed, (b) is being harmed, or (c) is at risk of being harmed, he or she shall, as soon as practicable, report that knowledge, belief or suspicion, as the case may be, to the Agency.*

Section 14(2) of the Children First Act 2015 also places obligations on mandated persons to report any disclosures made by a child:

Where a child believes that he or she– (a) has been harmed, (b) is being harmed, or (c) is at risk of being harmed, and discloses this belief to a mandated person in the course of a mandated person’s employment or profession as such a person, the mandated person shall, ... as soon as practicable, report that disclosure to the Agency.

Section 2 of the Children First Act 2015 defines harm as follows *...harm means in relation to a child – (a) assault, ill-treatment or neglect of the child in a manner that seriously affects, or is likely to seriously affect the child's health, development or welfare, or, (b) sexual abuse of the child.*

Under the legislation a mandated person is required to report any knowledge, belief or reasonable suspicion that a child has been harmed, is being harmed,

or is at risk of being harmed. The Act defines harm as ‘assault, ill-treatment, neglect or sexual abuse’, and covers single and multiple instances.

The approach agreed between the National Board and both the Department of Children and Youth Affairs and Tusla, is that allegations received by mandated persons within the Catholic Church (about Church personnel) can be jointly notified with the relevant DLP. This allows the DLP to assist in assessing whether the threshold for reporting has been reached. This does not prevent the mandated person from reporting directly.

All allegations made against clerics and religious will continue to be processed through the DLP in line with Standard 2 - Procedures for Responding to Child Protection Suspicions, Concerns, Knowledge or Allegations.

Please note: All priests in ministry are mandated persons.

Garda Vetting

All members are required to complete the Garda Vetting process, if you have not availed of this please contact Sandra Neville (Garda Vetting Liaison Person). If you are unsure whether or not you have been vetted you may check with Sandra.



Celebret Card

The celebret card will be issued to you by Fr Pat Raleigh (Regional Director), this lasts for three year.

