



APPENDIX A

ROLES IN THE CHILD SAFEGUARDING STRUCTURE



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Roles in the Child Safeguarding Structure

The diagram below shows the proposed structure for key personnel involved within child safeguarding in the Catholic Church in Ireland. A similar structure is replicated across each Church body in Ireland. Descriptions for each role are displayed in this appendix, while also being referenced and expanded on in each relevant standard.



Church authority

To be responsible for all safeguarding practices by:

- Ensuring that the appropriate child safeguarding structures and personnel are in place;
- Liaising with the Holy See, as appropriate. If the Church body is a religious order or congregation, this is done through the superior general;
- Ensuring compliance with canon and civil law;
- Upholding the three standards in practice and behaviour.

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Director of safeguarding

To be responsible for coordination of all safeguarding practices by:

- Directing and implementing the child safeguarding policy;
- Liaising with and supporting parishes and communities to ensure implementation of local policies and procedures;
- Liaising with the child safeguarding committee and the advisory panel;
- Ensuring that all child safeguarding personnel are kept up to date with practice, as communicated from the NBSCCCI;
- Reporting directly to the Church authority on all child safeguarding issues.

Designated liaison person (DLP)

To promote safeguarding by:

- Hearing child safeguarding concerns;
- Passing on child safeguarding concerns to the statutory authorities;
- Managing cases and all associated documents;
- Liaising with the support person, advisor and the Church authority;
- Passing on child safeguarding concerns to the NBSCCCI;
- Conducting internal inquiries;
- Contributing to upholding the three standards in practice and behaviour;
- Completing an annual report regarding compliance with Standards for the Church authority;
- Monitoring respondents or, with the Church authority, appointing a suitable person to carry out this role.

Advisory panel

To promote safeguarding by:

- Advising the Church authority on all stages of the investigative process into alleged child abuse;
- Keeping a record of all of its recommendations to the Church authority;
- Upholding the three standards in practice and behaviour.

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Support person

To promote safeguarding by:

- Keeping the complainant informed of the process of the case;
- Helping direct the complainant to counselling and support;
- Recording any meetings or contact they have with the complainant, and reporting to the DLP as appropriate;
- Upholding the three standards in practice and behaviour.

Advisor

To promote safeguarding by:

- Keeping the respondent informed of the process of the case;
- Helping direct the respondent to counselling and support;
- Recording any meetings or contact they have with the respondent, and reporting to the DLP as appropriate;
- Upholding the three standards in practice and behaviour.

Safeguarding committee

To promote child safeguarding by:

- Developing a three-year child safeguarding plan, including the establishment of the local child safeguarding policy and procedures;
- Coordinating local safeguarding representatives (LSRs);
- Coordinating activities related to child safeguarding, e.g. training;
- Ensuring the annual audit, including the correlation of records for training-related activities;
- Ensuring the completion of training needs assessments across the various child safeguarding roles in the Church body;
- Ensuring, with the Church authority, that the appropriate child safeguarding personnel are in place;
- Upholding the three standards in practice and behaviour.

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Safeguarding trainers

To promote child safeguarding by:

- Working with the safeguarding committee to identify training needs;
- Delivering full-day and information-session safeguarding training to those identified by the safeguarding committee in the Church body;
- Keeping records of all of those who have been trained;
- Contributing to upholding the three standards in practice and behaviour.

Local safeguarding council

To promote child safeguarding by:

- Ensuring that Church body policies and procedures are in place and implemented;
- Conducting an audit of all organisations in the Church body;
- Playing a supportive role in the recruitment and selection of volunteers;
- Ensuring that all information relating to safeguarding is posted on all Church buildings, and is relevant and up to date;
- Providing information to all staff and volunteers, as and when required;
- Ensuring active communication with Church personnel and lay faithful;
- Upholding the three standards in practice and behaviour.

Local safeguarding representative (LSR)

Being responsible to the parish priest or local superior to promote child safeguarding by:

- Raising awareness of what child safeguarding is;
- Disseminating information regarding the standards and guidance, and circulating this information widely;
- Ensuring Church activities are provided in a way that ensures the safety and well-being of the children involved;
- Ensuring that the contact details of the DLP, Gardaí/PSNI and Tulsa/HSCT are widely publicised;
- Upholding the three standards in practice and behaviour.

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National Board for Safeguarding Children in the Catholic Church in Ireland (NBSCCCI)

Performs its child safeguarding role by:

- Assisting with the development of policy, procedures and practices across the Catholic Church in Ireland;
- Offering advice on best practice, including training, case management and implementation of national standards and guidance;
- Monitoring the practice of child safeguarding across the Catholic Church in Ireland.

National Case Management Committee (NCMC)

Integral to child safeguarding:

- The NCMC exists as a function of NBSCCCI, and is chaired and administered by its staff;
- The NCMC functions as an all-island group, offering advice to Church authorities on all aspects of the investigative process into alleged abuse (including the areas listed under the role of the advisory panel on Page 3);
- Membership is agreed through the signing of a data processing deed, which allows the sharing of full information with the NCMC and is fully compliant with data protection legislation in both jurisdictions.

To find out more about the current composition of the group, please log on to: <http://www.safeguarding.ie>.

Other key roles:

Relevant person: is a term defined within the Children First Act 2015. It refers to a person who is appointed by a provider of a relevant service to be the first point of contact in respect of the provider's child safeguarding statement.

Mandated persons: are people who have contact with children and/or families who, by virtue of their qualifications, training and experience, are in a key position to help protect children from harm. Mandated persons include key professionals working with children in the education, health, justice, youth and childcare sectors. Certain professionals who may not work directly with children, such as those in adult counselling or psychiatry, are also mandated persons. The list also includes registered foster carers and members of the clergy or pastoral care workers of a church or other religious community. The Children First Act 2015, Schedule 2, provides a full list of people who are classified as mandated persons.

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