



Training and Support Materials for Safeguarding Children,
in the Catholic Church in Ireland.

First Point of Contact Training

30th June 2014



THE NATIONAL BOARD FOR
SAFEGUARDING CHILDREN
IN THE CATHOLIC CHURCH



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Prayer



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Objectives

- **Understanding the 7 standards and how they are relevant to your role**
- **Exploring how to listen and respond to safeguarding calls**
- **Understanding How to signpost safeguarding calls**



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Key Times

- Break- 11:30-11:45
- Lunch 13.00-14.00



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What is your understanding of safeguarding?



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Why do we Safeguard?



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Why do we safeguard?

The Gospel

Safeguarding children is a practical living out of the baptismal vocation of every member of the Church to ensure the safety and well-being of those ‘little ones’ whom the Lord sets before us as those to whom the ‘kingdom of God belongs’.

(Mt 19:14)



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Why do we safeguard?

The Law

- The United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (1989)- recognises children as people with holders of 42 rights which must be respected by the laws of individual countries including the Holy See, Ireland and the United Kingdom.
- All rights are inalienable (which means they cannot be removed) and indivisible (all of the rights are interdependent and must be implemented in their entirety)
- All of the laws which are discussed later are a part of upholding the rights of children and young people



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Why do we safeguard?

Key messages from the past

- The welfare of children should be paramount.
- Church-based organisations must be responsible for safeguarding in its widest sense (to ensure safe environments and safe practices for young people) as well as ensuring adequate responses to any apparent or reported concerns.



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The Last Word

*Safeguarding and Child Protection is everybody's
business – so never, ever, do nothing.*



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The Seven Safeguarding Standards



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What is expected: The Seven Standards

- A written policy for keeping children safe.
- Written procedures for responding to allegations, suspicions and concerns.
- Policies and practices to prevent harm to children.
- Training and education for safeguarding personnel.
- Clear processes to communicate the Church's child safeguarding policy and procedures.
- Access to advice and support for victims and perpetrators.
- A plan to implement and monitor policies and procedures.



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Standard 1

A Written Policy on Keeping Children Safe

All Church organisations that work with children must have a written Child Protection Policy which:

- states that the Church is committed to keeping children safe
- makes clear to every one that children must be protected
- helps to create a safe and positive environment for children
- shows that the Church is taking its duty of care seriously.



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A Written Policy on Keeping Children Safe

Each child shall be cherished as a gift from God with an inherent right to dignity of life and bodily integrity which shall be respected, nurtured and protected by all.

Everyone in the Church has an obligation to ensure that the rights of children are respected.

This policy has been written to ensure that everyone in this Congregation takes every possible measure to prevent abuse. It aims to ensure that none of its personnel or volunteers engages in behavior that could allow abuse to occur or actions that could be misinterpreted by children, their families or other adults as constituting or leading to abuse



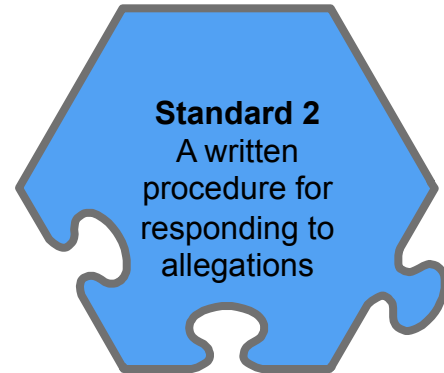
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Questions for Reflection

- Where is your copy of the safeguarding policies and procedures stored?
- Would you know where to get it in an emergency?
- How often is this policy reviewed and by whom?



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Standard 2

A Written Procedure – how to respond to allegations and suspicions

- Clear guidance to ensure a prompt response to allegations, suspicions, and concerns about a child's safety or welfare.
- All concerns are reported promptly to the civil authorities.
- Guiding principle: Safety of the child is always the most important consideration.

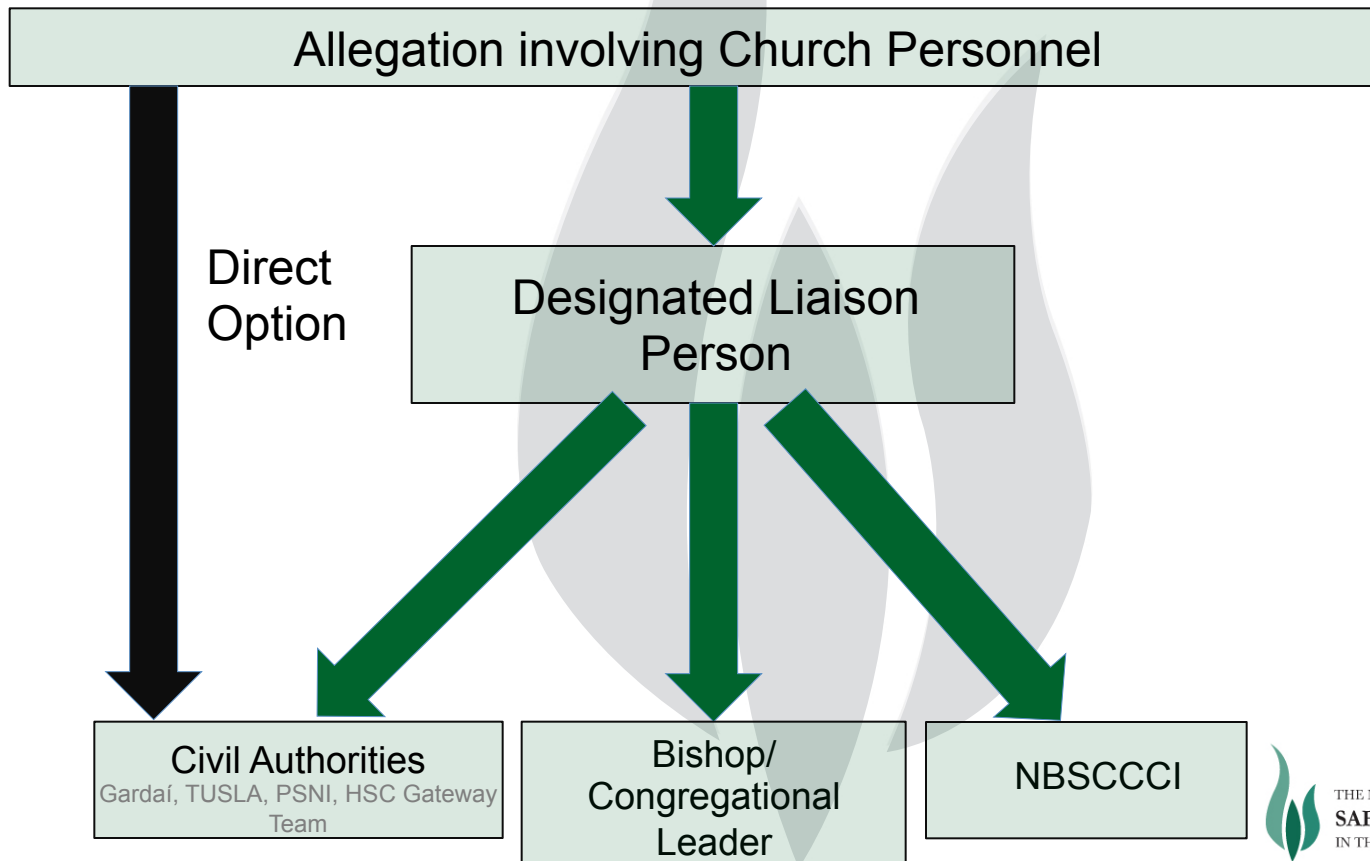


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Reporting Flowchart



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Questions for Reflection

- Did you know the process of responding to disclosures?
- How is this process disseminated in this setting?



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Standard 3

Preventing Harm to Children

Church organisations develop a culture of safety that minimises the risk of children and young people being abused by putting in place:

- Safe recruitment and vetting practices.
- Appropriate Codes of Behaviour for adults/children.
- Safe activities for children.
- Adequate supervision ratios of adults to children
- Parental Consent for participating.
- Safe access to IT equipment.
- Annual audit of practice against the Seven Standards.



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Questions for Reflection

Using the handouts check your policy to see-

- Do you have safeguarding practices in place where children are involved?
- Who checks that these safeguards are real and not just on paper?



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Standard 4

Training/Education for Keeping Children Safe

- Relevant training is available for all involved in any way with children to develop and maintain the necessary attitudes, skills and knowledge to keep children safe.
- To carry out this role confidently and effectively, they need to be aware of child protection issues.
- Everyone has a role to play in child protection and safeguarding.



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Questions for Reflection

- Who in your area of work needs to be trained
- What kind of training do they need?
- Who will provide this training?



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Standard 5

Communicating the Church's Safeguarding Message

Importance of publicising Church's safeguarding policies and procedures.



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Questions for Reflection

- How do you communicate the message of safeguarding in your work?
- How does your Congregation engage with children about safeguarding?



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Standard 6

Access to Advice and Support

Victim Support

Support Person

- Towards Healing Counselling
- HSE Counselling
- Pastoral Support

Respondant Support

- Supervision
- Pastoral Care (Advisor)
- Counselling

Support for Safeguarding Personnel

- Specialist advice, support and information.
- Contact with national/local child protection/welfare agencies.



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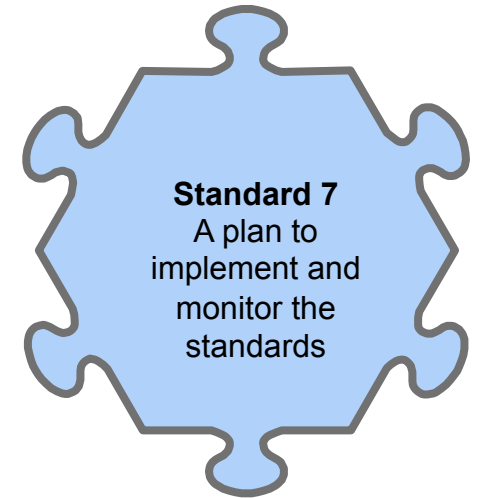
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Questions for Reflection

- Do you have the contact details of all safeguarding personnel?
- How are they disseminated where you work?



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Standard 7

Implementing and Monitoring the Standards

Each Church organisation develops a plan of action to monitor the effectiveness of the steps it is taking to keep children safe.



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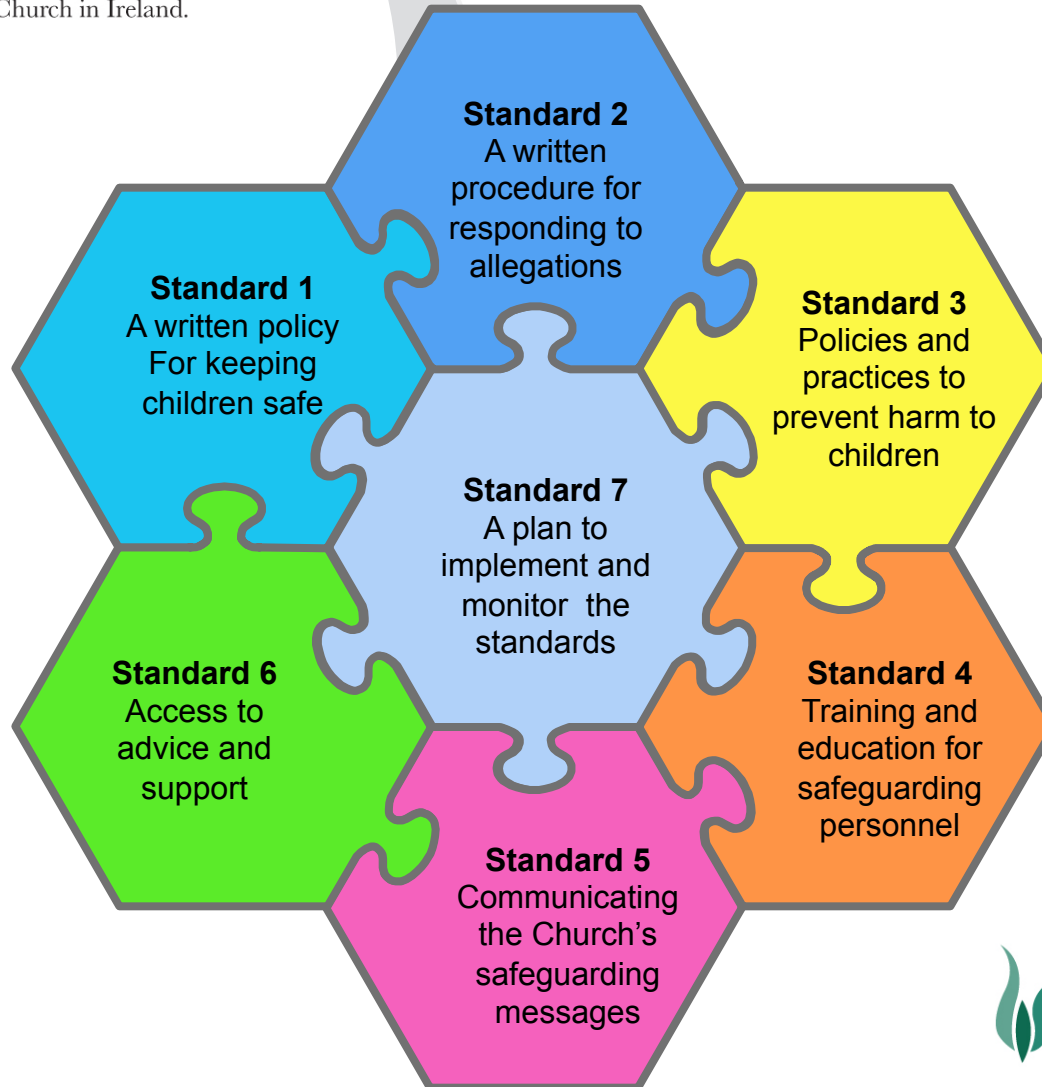
Questions for Reflection

- How are the standards monitored?
- Whose responsibility is it to monitor?
- How is it done?
- How is it resourced?



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The 7 Standards



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What are Standards For?

**Think about the standards we have just discussed,
and in your group discuss the following:**

- What safeguarding practices are involved in my role?
- Which standard are they fulfilling?
- How does my role link to the standards?



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BREAK



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Hearing a Safeguarding Concern



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Responding to a Disclosure: DO's

- Stay Calm, listen carefully and patiently.
- Reassure them that it was right to tell you.
- Explain that you will have to inform the appropriate authorities.
- Record what they've said as soon as possible after the meeting, using their own words as far as possible.



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Responding to a Disclosure: DON'Ts

- Make judgements about the alleged abuser.
- Promise to keep secrets.
- Tell them stories about other people.
- Tell them that everything will be fixed straight away.
- Don't press for details, except to clarify.
- Don't fill in words or finish sentences.
- Don't convey your anger, shock or embarrassment, or give your opinion.



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Reporting a Safeguarding Concern



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Grounds for Reporting

- Disclosure from a child or adult.
- Witness account – third party.
- Direct evidence of injury or behaviour consistent with abuse.
- Injury or behaviour which is ambiguous but where there are corroborative indicators of abuse.
- Consistent signs of neglect over time.
- Where you have a strong suspicion of injury / neglect or abuse.



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Reporting Procedure

- If you have a safeguarding concern you must report this **without delay** to your Designated Liaison Person (DLP).
- Make a record which will be submitted to the DLP.
- The DLP will respond back to you that the allegation has been received.
- Store this correspondence with the document you have submitted to the DLP securely, in your local setting (but not in your own home).
- The DLP will report this to the civil authorities, having ascertained that it is a safeguarding concern and not a disciplinary matter which does not constitute abuse.
- The Civil Authorities will write back to the DLP to say that they have received the report
- The DLP will store this correspondence with the report they made securely.
- You will only be contacted if requested by the civil authorities.
- If the DLP decides not to refer the incident, you have the right to reasons in writing for this decision and to refer the matter yourself to the civil authorities.



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In Cases of Emergency

- If a child is at immediate risk contact the DLP for advice on what to do.
- If the DLP is unavailable TUSLA (ROI) or the HSC Trust Gateway Team (NI) should be contacted immediately.
- Outside of office hours, where a child is at immediate risk, contact the Gardaí in the ROI. In NI the HSC Trust Gateway Team operate an out-of-hours service.
- The DLP should be informed as soon as possible that you have passed on your safeguarding concerns directly to the civil authorities.



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Reporting Flowchart

Risk to a child or young person who is involved in Church activities by alleged abuser who is not a Church worker or Volunteer.

Direct Option

Designated Liaison
Person

Civil Authorities

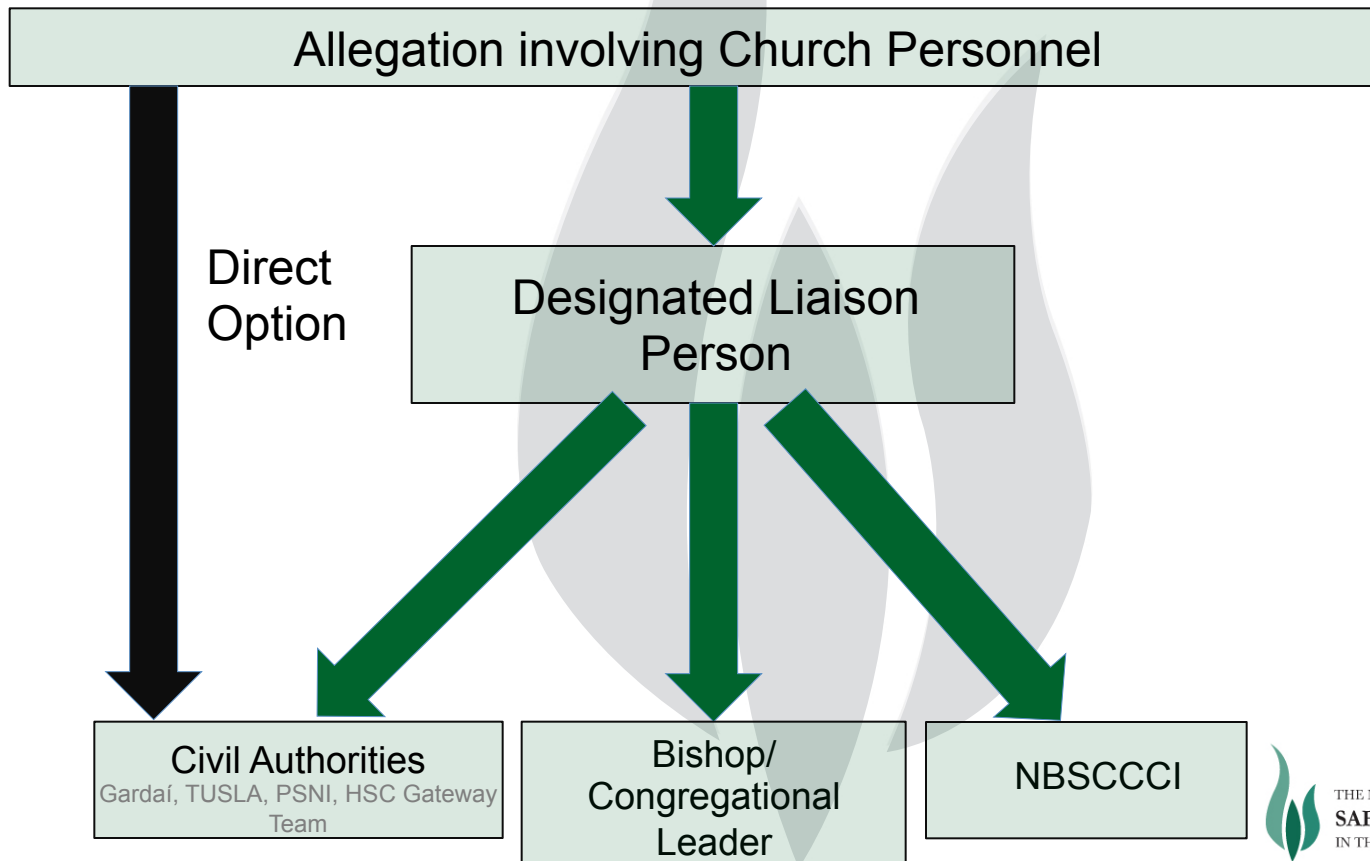
Gardaí, TUSLA, PSNI, HSC Gateway Team





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Reporting Flowchart



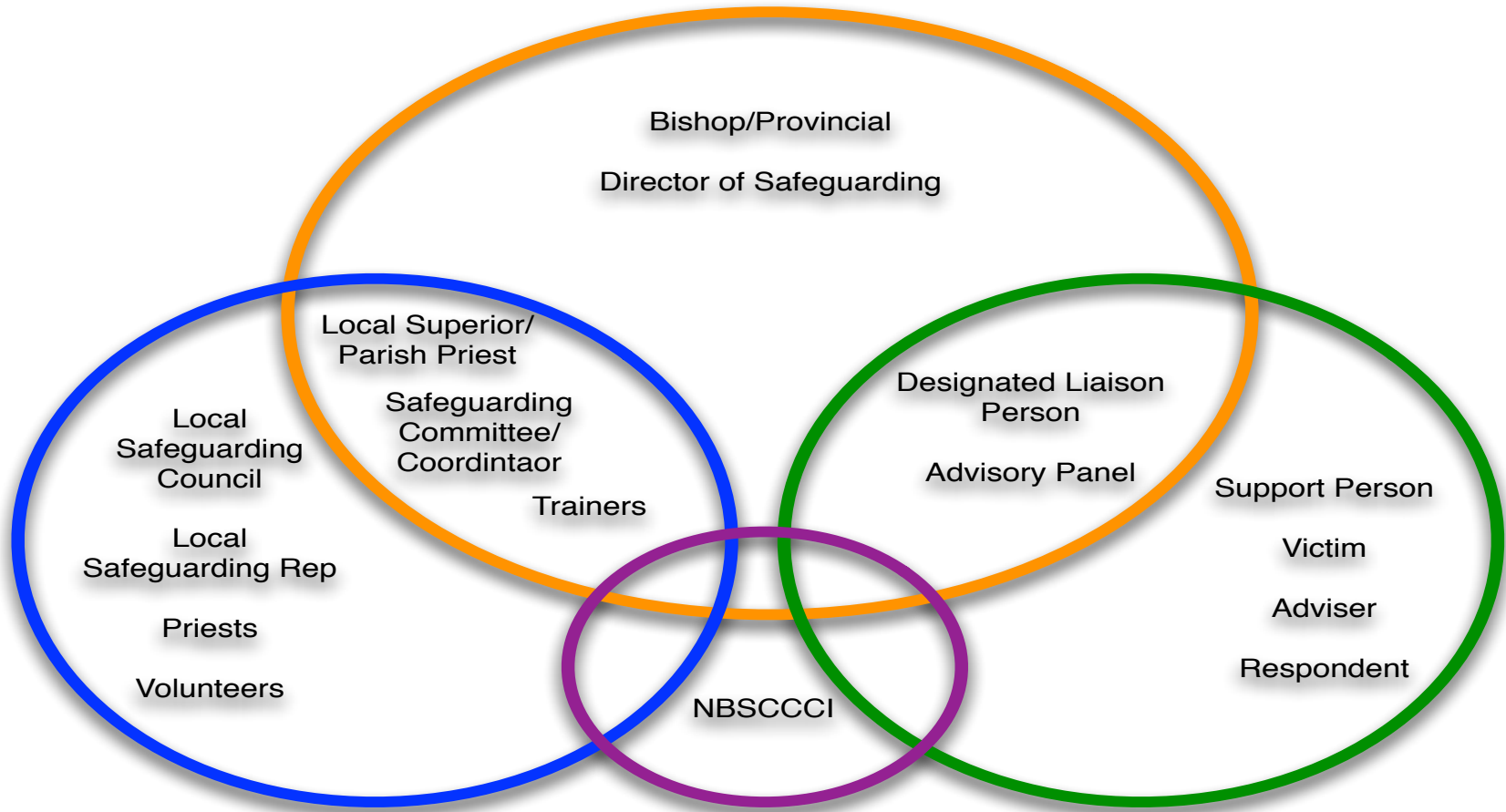
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How to signpost

LEADERSHIP



CREATING AND
MAINTAINING SAFE
ENVIRONMENTS

CASE
MANAGEMENT



Role of the Bishop/Congregational Leader

To be responsible for all safeguarding practices by:

1. Ensuring that the appropriate safeguarding structures and personnel are in place.
2. Liaising with the Holy See as appropriate.
3. Ensuring compliance with canon and civil law.
4. Upholding the 7 standards in practice and behaviour.





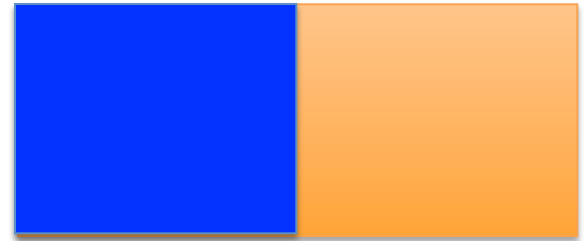
Role of the Designated Liaison Person

1. Hearing safeguarding concerns
2. Passing on safeguarding concerns to civil authorities and NBSCCCI
3. Managing the case and all associated documents
Liaising with the Support Person, Adviser and Bishop/
Provincial.
4. Convening internal inquiries
5. Contributing to upholding the 7 standards in practice and behavior.





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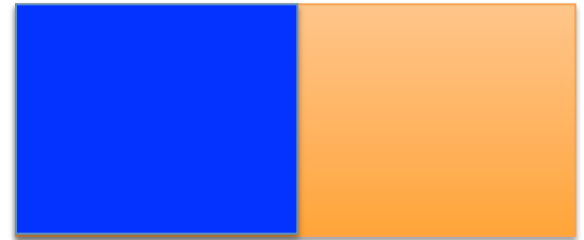
Role of the Safeguarding Committee

To promote safeguarding by:

1. Developing a 3 year safeguarding plan including the establishment of the safeguarding policy and procedures.
2. Coordinating Local Safeguarding Representatives.
3. Coordinating safeguarding related activities – e.g. training
4. Ensuring the annual audit, including correlation of records for training related activities.
5. Ensuring the completion of training needs assessments across the various safeguarding roles in the diocese/congregation.
6. With the bishop/provincial ensuring that the appropriate safeguarding personnel are in place.



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Role of Safeguarding Trainers

To promote safeguarding by:

1. Delivering training to anyone in the diocese/congregation.
2. Working with the Safeguarding Committee to identify training needs.
3. Keeping records of all of those who have been trained.
4. Contributing to upholding the 7 standards in practice and behavior.



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Role of the Local Safeguarding Council

To promote safeguarding by:

1. Ensuring diocesan/congregational Policies and Procedures are in place and implemented.
2. Completing an audit of all organisations in the diocese/congregation and carrying this carry out.
3. Taking a supportive role in the recruitment and selection of volunteers.
4. Ensuring that all information relating to safeguarding is posted on all Church buildings and is relevant and up to date.
5. Providing information to all staff and volunteers as and when required.
6. Ensuring active communication with the priests of the parish/local religious, with the LSRs ,the Safeguarding Coordinator/Committee and the parishioners.



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Role of Local Safeguarding Representative

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

1. Raising awareness of what safeguarding is.
2. Disseminating information re standards and guidance and circulating information widely.
3. Ensuring church activities are provided in a way that ensures the safety and well being of the children involved.
4. Ensuring contact details of Designated Liaison Person, Garda/PSNI and TUSLA/Gateway Team are widely publicised.



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Role of Parish Staff, Clergy, Religious and Volunteers

To promote safeguarding by:

1. Attending safeguarding training.
2. Understanding what to do if a disclosure is made to them.
3. Contributing to upholding the 7 standards in your practice and behavior.
4. Understanding and working within the Safeguarding Policies and Procedures.



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Group Work

In each group and using the scenario in front of you answer the following:

What is your initial reaction?

How would you respond to the person?

What would you report?

Where would you signpost them to?



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Feedback



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Evaluations and Thanks