

Congregation of the Sisters of Mercy

Ireland and Northern Ireland.

Sisters of Mercy, Northern Province.

Safeguarding Children and Vulnerable Adults

The Sisters of Mercy, Northern Province are committed to the promotion and implementation of measures that will ensure the safety and wellbeing of children and vulnerable adults with whom we work.

The Northern Province spans two jurisdictions, Ireland and Northern Ireland. Our Policy in Northern Ireland also applies to the safeguarding of vulnerable adults, as required by the legislation.

We are committed to working in partnership with the civil authorities to ensure that all aspects of safeguarding children are managed promptly, professionally and justly. Our policy is compliant with civil legislation, notably “Children First”; National Guidelines for the Protection and Welfare of Children (1999), Children (NI) Order 1995, Co-operating to Safeguard Children, DHSSPS 2003, and church guidelines “Safeguarding Children, Standards & Guidance Document for the Catholic Church in Ireland 2008.

All child and vulnerable adult protection concerns shall be reported to the civil authorities without delay.

Procedures

The Northern Province of the Sisters of Mercy is committed to following best practice as specified by the National Board for Safeguarding Children in the Catholic Church. (NBSCCCI).

Our Congregational Child protection Policy and Procedures are set out in our publication – “Congregation of the Sisters of Mercy – Safeguarding Children Information – Policy, Principles and Guidance Document” (October 2009).

This document has the following appendices;

Child protection Recording Form

Job Description for Designated Officers

Parental Consent Form

Best Practice – Safe recruitment, Selection and Vetting

Sample Application Form for those with substantial access to children.

Declaration Form for all working with children

Confidential Reference Check

Questionnaire re; Training needs

Checklist for monitoring and compliance with Standards

Ways of Providing Evidence re: implementation of Policy

Children's Service Providers.

Information can be obtained from The Sisters of Mercy, Northern Province Office –
048 85548127 (if calling from Rol).

028 85548127 (if calling from NI).

All Province personnel are required to adhere to the “Congregation of the Sisters of Mercy – Safeguarding Children Information - Policy, Principles and Guidance Document” (October 2009).

Safeguarding Structure in Northern Province

The Provincial Leader has overall responsibility for the implementation of safeguarding standards in our province. This she does in conjunction with Mercy, Northern Province's safeguarding personnel.

All Safeguarding Personnel are in place and avail of on-going training provided by the National Board for the Safeguarding of Children in the Catholic Church (NBSCCC).

They include;

- Designated Officers
- Local Safeguarding Representatives
- Local Support Persons
- Local Advice Persons
- Safeguarding Committee Advisory
- Advisory Panel

Designated Liaison Officers

The role of the Designated Officer is outlined in appendix 1.3 of the “Congregation of the Sisters of Mercy – Safeguarding Children Information – Policy, Principles and Guidance Document” (October) 2009.

Mercy, Northern Province Designated Liaison Officers

Designated Liaison Officer: Mrs Teresa Burns

Deputy Designated Liaison Officer: Sr. Kathleen Savage.

The Designated Liaison Officers can be contacted through the Provincial Office,

048 8554 8127 (if calling from Rol).

028 8554 8127 (if calling from NI).

Contact Details

Sisters of Mercy, Northern Province.

Provincial House,
74 Main Street,
Clogher,
Co Tyrone,
Northern Ireland.

Designated Liaison Person,

Mrs Teresa Burns.
burns.teresa@mercynth.org
048 8554 8127 (if calling from Rol).
028 85548127 (if calling from NI).

Deputy Designated Liaison Person

Sr Kathleen Savage
ksavage@utvinternet.com
048 90715478 (if calling from Rol).
02890715473(if calling from NI).

National Board for Safeguarding Children in the Catholic Church in Ireland

www.safeguarding.ie
00353(0)1 5053124

Police Service of Northern Ireland

Contact your local police station
www.psni.police.uk

Department of Health, Social Services and Public Safety.(DHSSPS)

Contact your local Health and Social Care Trust.
www.dhssps.gov.uk/child protection guidance

An Garda Siochana

Contact your local Garda Station
www.garda.ie

Health Service Executive

Contact your local Community area
www.hse.ie/eng/services