

SAFEGUARDING CHILDREN

Clonfert Diocese Policies and Procedures



Child Protection Services Contact Details

GARDAI

Local Garda Station or Free Garda Helpline:

Tel: 1800 666111

HSE COUNTY GALWAY

Child Care Manager's Office Galway PCCC, HSE West, 25 Newcastle Road, Galway.

Tel: (091) 546228 / 546229

Principal Social Worker Galway PCCC, HSE West, 25 Newcastle Road, Galway.

Tel: (091) 546366 or 546370

Principal Social Worker Galway PCCC, HSE West, Health Centre, Brackernagh, Ballinasloe, Co. Galway. **Tel: (090) 9646200**

HSE COUNTY ROSCOMMON

Child Care Manager's Office, Roscommon PCCC, HSE West, Abbeystown House, Abbey Street, Roscommon **Tel: (090) 6626732**

Principal Social Worker, Roscommon PCCC, HSE West, Abbeystown House, Abbey Street, Roscommon. **Tel: (090) 6626732**

HSE COUNTY OFFALY

Child Care Manager's Office, Offaly PCCC, Health Centre, Arden Road, Tullamore, Co. Offaly. **Tel: (057) 9359591 or (057) 9359593 or (057) 9359595**

Principal Social Worker, Offaly PCCC, Social Work Department, Castle Buildings, Tara Street, Tullamore, Co. Offaly. **Tel: (057) 9370700**

CLONFERT DIOCESAN DESIGNATED PERSON

Fr. Ciaran Kitching **Tel: (090) 9676151**

DEPUTY DESIGNATED PERSON

Ms. Mary Gormley **Tel: (087) 2882500**

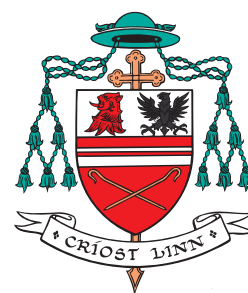
VICTIMS/SURVIVORS SUPPORT PERSONS

Contact details for Victims/Survivors Support Person are available from the Diocesan Office and from Clonfert Diocesan **website www.clonfertdiocese.ie**

**Contact: Bishop's Office, Coorheen, Loughrea, Co. Galway
Tel: (091) 841560 Email: clonfert@iol.ie www.clonfertdiocese.ie**

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Summary Child Safeguarding Policy

This summary of Clonfert Diocese's Child Safeguarding Policy will be prominently displayed in all Churches and church facilities.

POLICY STATEMENT:

Each child and vulnerable adult is cherished and affirmed as a gift from God with an inherent right to dignity of life and bodily integrity that will be respected, nurtured and protected by all. This summary of the Clonfert Child Safeguarding Policy outlines the procedures for the protection and safeguarding of children and vulnerable adults. The full detailed policy and associated documents are available at your parish and online at www.clonfertdioocese.ie.

RESPONDING TO CHILD SAFEGUARDING ALLEGATIONS AND SUSPICIONS:

Children have a right to be listened to and heard. Any person who suspects that a child is being abused or is at risk of being abused must report their concerns without delay to the HSE Child Protection Services or to An Gardaí. If the complaint is made about church personnel the complaint should be made to the Diocesan Designated Person/Deputy. All contact details are attached.

The process that should be followed with regard to reporting a child protection concern is outlined in the flowchart attached. Detailed reporting procedure and recording forms are included in the policy document and available at local parish offices or on the diocesan website www.clonfertdioocese.ie.

PREVENTING HARM TO CHILDREN:

The Diocesan Safe Recruitment and Vetting Procedures will be strictly adhered to by all diocesan agencies when recruiting Church personnel, including volunteers, in assessing their suitability to work with children and vulnerable adults. An appropriate and strict code of behaviour as outlined in the Policy will be adhered to during activities with children by all church personnel.

TRAINING AND EDUCATION:

In order to maintain high standards and good practice, all church personnel who work with children will have induction training by qualified personnel, based on our Policy. Existing staff and volunteers will be required to meet all the training requirements. Refresher training will be delivered regularly to ensure compliance with updated policy and procedures.

COMMUNICATING THE CHURCH'S SAFEGUARDING MESSAGE:

This summary will be displayed prominently in all Church buildings and places where children and young people engage in church related activities. All personnel/groups involved in diocesan and parish activities associated with children and young people will receive a copy of the full Policy document and must comply fully with it.

ACCESS TO ADVICE AND SUPPORT:

Those who have suffered child abuse will be offered a compassionate and just response with appropriate pastoral care to help them rebuild their lives. Those who have harmed others will be helped to face up to the reality of abuse, as well as being assisted in healing.

IMPLEMENTING AND MONITORING THE POLICY:

To ensure children are kept safe, this policy, procedures and guidelines will be implemented across all Church organisations within the Diocese. Regular checks and audits will be carried out to ensure compliance with the child safeguarding policy and procedures.

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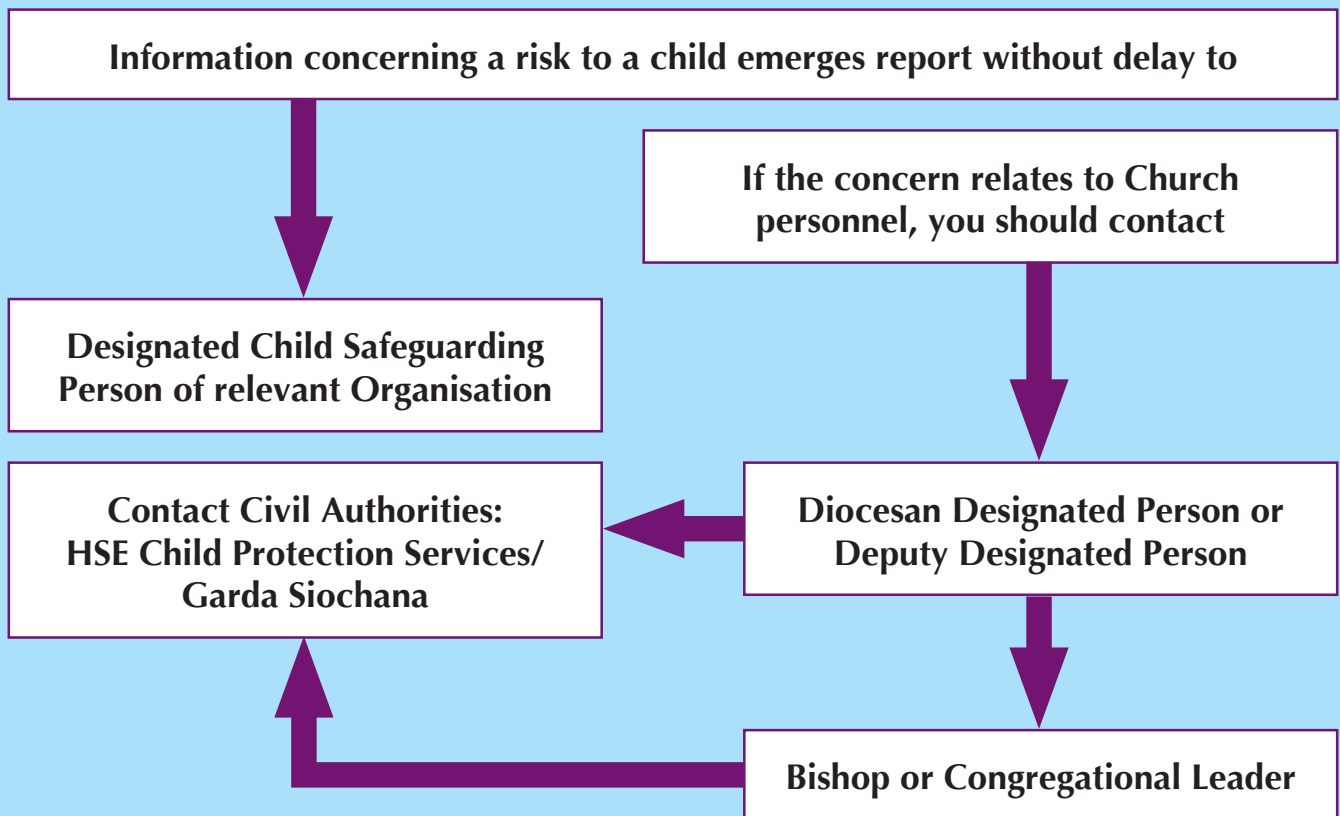
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Reporting Procedure Flowchart

GUIDING PRINCIPLE

The guiding principle is that the safety of the child should be the paramount consideration in any investigation and that at no time should child/ren be put at further risk of harm by delay or inaction. Any allegation or concern regarding the abuse of a child should be treated seriously and for this reason it is important for anyone raising a concern to strictly follow a reporting procedure. Particular care should be taken in regard to confidentiality and the sharing of information with appropriate people. The Church has a responsibility to pass on child protection concerns about a child to civil authorities even when it does not concern Church personnel directly.



Where an organisation decides not to report concerns to the HSE/An Garda Siochana, the individual who raised the concern should be given a clear written statement of the reasons why the organisation is not taking such action and advised that if they remain concerned about the situation, they are free to consult with or report to the HSE/An Garda Siochana. The provisions of the Protections for Persons Reporting Child Abuse Act 1998 apply once they communicate 'reasonably and in good faith'. (Reference Children First 3.8.1 2011).

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