

STANDARD 6

COMMUNICATING THE CHURCH'S SAFEGUARDING MESSAGE GUIDANCE FOR INDICATOR 6.2

6.2B Guidance on Creating User-Friendly Versions of the Child Safeguarding Policy

Some Church bodies have found it helpful to create shortened or condensed versions of the diocesan/religious order's child safeguarding policy for key audiences. This is done for a number of reasons:

- It makes the policy more attractive;
- It is easier to read and understand by key audiences;
- It makes the policy more relevant for each ministry in which Church personnel are involved;
- Shortened versions are more portable.

However, when developing a condensed version it is important to be mindful of the following points:

- Do not create so many versions of the policy that it dilutes the key messages of child safeguarding;
- Creating multiple versions will mean that updates and revisions will be more difficult to carry out;
- Ensure that the messages contained across the various versions of the policy are consistent and do not contradict each other;
- Make sure that key pieces of information, such as the reporting procedure, are consistent across all of the various versions of the policy, to ensure that allegations or suspicions are reported appropriately.

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6.2B Template 1: Example Concise Version of the Child Safeguarding Policy

Details of personnel to contact if you are concerned about the welfare and safety of children

Designated Liaison Person:

Police:

Child Protection Service:

Child Safeguarding Policy Statement

As a constituent member of the Catholic Church in Ireland, we recognise and uphold the dignity and rights of all children, are committed to ensuring their safety and well-being, and will work in partnership with parents/guardians to do this. We recognise each child as a gift from God, and we value and encourage the participation of children in all activities that enhance their spiritual, physical, emotional, intellectual and social development.

All Church personnel (including clergy, religious, staff and volunteers) have a responsibility to safeguard children through promoting their welfare, health and development in a safe and caring environment that supports their best interests and prevents abuse.



THE NATIONAL BOARD FOR
SAFEGUARDING CHILDREN
IN THE CATHOLIC CHURCH IN IRELAND

T: (00353) 1 5053124
W: www.safeguarding.ie



Safe Environments
Child Protection Procedures
Management of Respondents
Care of Complainants
Communication
Training and Support
Quality Assurance

SAFEGUARDING CHILDREN: POLICY AND STANDARDS 2016

Summary



THE NATIONAL BOARD FOR
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The Seven Safeguarding Standards

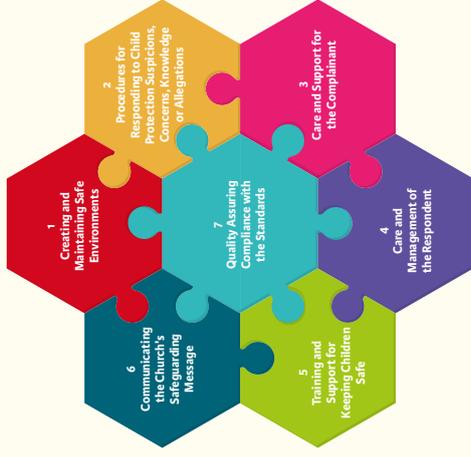
There are **seven standards** that every Church body is required to meet to fulfil the child safeguarding policy statement. They are:

Standard 1: Creating and Maintaining Safe Environments

Church bodies provide an environment for children that is welcoming, nurturing and safe. They provide access to good role models whom the children can trust, and who respect, protect and enhance their spiritual, physical, emotional, intellectual and social development

Standard 2: Procedures for Responding to Child Protection Suspicions, Concerns, Knowledge or Allegations

Church bodies have clear procedures and guidance on what to do and how to ensure there is a prompt response when suspicions, concerns, knowledge or allegations arise regarding a child's safety or welfare. They also enable the Church to meet all national and international legal and practice requirements and guidance.



Standard 5: Training and Support for Keeping Children Safe

Church personnel are trained and supported in all aspects of safeguarding relevant to their role, in order to develop and maintain the necessary knowledge, attitudes and skills to safeguard and protect children.

Standard 6: Communicating the Church's Safeguarding Message

Church bodies appropriately communicate the Church's child safeguarding message.

Standard 7: Quality Assuring Compliance with the Standards

The Church body develops a plan of action to quality assure compliance with the safeguarding standards. This action plan is reviewed annually. The Church body only has responsibility to monitor, evaluate and report on compliance with the indicators under each standard that applies to it, depending on its ministry.

Standard 3: Care and Support for the Complainant

Complainants who have suffered abuse as children receive a compassionate response when they disclose their abuse. They, and their families, are offered appropriate support, advice and pastoral care.

Standard 4: Care and Management of the Respondent

The Church authority has in place a fair process for investigating and managing child safeguarding concerns. When the threshold for reporting has been reached, a system of support and monitoring for respondents (cleric or religious) is provided.