

Newsletter

Latest News from the National Office for Safeguarding Children in the Catholic Church in Ireland

January 2017



Welcome

National Office Staff

Chief Executive Officer [Teresa Devlin](#)

Director of Training and Support [Niall Moore](#)

Part time Director of Safeguarding [Peter Kieran](#)

Administrators [Ann Doyle](#)

[Imelda Ashe](#)

Advice and Support [Sister Colette Stevenson](#)

Happy New year from the National Board of Safeguarding Children in the Catholic Church in Ireland (NBSCCCI) and the national office staff. We wish you many blessings and success in your child safeguarding practice throughout 2017.

As we start the new year, we would like to remind you of the NBSCCCI's Board Directors:

John Morgan-Chair Person

Dr Keith Holmes

Sr Colette Stevenson

Fr Paul Murphy

Jim O'Higgins

Mary Waddell

Michael Ringrose

Marie Kennedy

Fr Tony Mullins

Fr Edward Grimes

You can read more about each of the Board Director by following this link <http://www.safeguarding.ie/index.php/national-board-for-safeguarding-children-in-the-catholic-church-in-ireland> .

Safeguarding Children: Policy and Standards for the Catholic Church in Ireland 2016

Following the adoption of *Safeguarding Children: Policy and Standards for the Catholic Church in Ireland 2016* by Church Authorities, 2017 will be dedicated by National Office Staff to providing support in the implementation of the revised Standards. To assist with this four workshops (one in each ecclesiastical provincial area) will be facilitated by NBSCCCI staff. To book your place or for more information please follow the links below:

- [15/03/2017- Implementing the Standards Workshop \(Cashel Ecclesiastical Provincial Area\)](#)
- [24/03/2017- Implementing the Standards Workshop \(Armagh Ecclesiastical Provincial Area\)](#)
- [27/04/2017- Implementing the Standards Workshop \(Tuam Ecclesiastical Provincial Area\)](#)
- Date to be confirmed- Implementing the Standards Workshop (Dublin Ecclesiastical Provincial Area)

In addition to the listed workshops, if any Church Authority would like the NBSCCCI to provide tailored support in implementing *Safeguarding Children: Policy and Standards for the Catholic Church in Ireland 2016*, please do not hesitate to contact niall.moore@safeguarding.ie.

In line with [Standard 7](#), all Church Authorities are required to undertake an annual self-audit and inform the NBSCCCI **by end January 2017** that this has been complete. The NBSCCCI will reference the number of returns received in its annual report in May 2017.

The NBSCCCI will produce an App in the coming months which will contain *Safeguarding Children: Policy and Standards for the Catholic Church in Ireland 2016*, Guidance and all relevant forms. Details as to how to download the App will be forwarded in correspondence to Church Authorities once the work on the App is complete.

Guidance Updates

Since its publication there have been several updates and revisions to the Guidance which supports the implementation of *Safeguarding Children: Policy and Standards for the Catholic Church in Ireland 2016*. This page of the website <http://www.safeguarding.ie/index.php/guidance> contains the latest versions of the guidance in pdf and the associated templates in Word format. To help Church personnel identify which changes have been made, a permanent section at the top of the guidance page displays the latest changes in the Guidance by page number and date.

All of the Guidance is also available in Word format, and if you would like a copy please contact imeldaashe@safeguarding.ie who will email a copy to you.



Reviews of Child Safeguarding Practice

Reviews of child safeguarding practice by the NBSCCCI will not be initiated during 2017. Consultation on the revised review methodology has now ceased and the comments are being reviewed as part of drafting a revised approach to quality assuring child safeguarding practice.

Training and Support Strategy (2017-2019)

The Training and Support Strategy outlines the vision for training and support from the NBSCCCI, alongside specific objectives. These are:

- Building skills and capacity at local level
- Training and supporting trainers
- Supporting individual Church bodies
- Facilitating national training events
- Developing policy, guidance and resources
- Supporting best practice

Each of these objectives have targets which will be achieved in the next three years. To read the strategy please follow this link

http://www.safeguarding.ie/images/Pdfs/Training_Resources/Training_and_Support_Strategy_2017-2019.pdf

Upcoming Training

Dates for national training in 2017 are now available on the website on this page <http://www.safeguarding.ie/index.php/what-we-do/advice-on-effective-practice/training>. The following training courses are now available for booking:

08/02/2017- Role Specific Training for Support People

This training is designed for new and existing Support People and will focus on the practicalities of this role, including record keeping, working with complainants and understanding the boundaries of the role as distinct from others in the child safeguarding structure. **This training was last facilitated nationally on the 22nd of April 2015.** To book your place please follow this link <http://www.safeguarding.ie/component/eventbooking/role-specific-training-for-support-people>

25/02/2017(and additional dates)- Train the Trainers Course

This training is only for those wishing to become registered as trainers for 3 years with the NBSCCCI. The training will be delivered over 5 days and structured as follows:

- 25/02/2017 and 26/02/2017 (both days starting at 10:00 and finishing at 16:00)- context, group work skills and facilitation skills
- 11/03/2017 and 12/03/2017 (both days starting at 10:00 and finishing at 16:00)- delivering the safeguarding children programme
- 01/04/2017 (10:00 until 16:00)- assessment of each trainer by a tutor from the NBSCCCI and their peers.
- Additional Date- Final assessment of the trainer in their local Church body, by a tutor registered with the NBSCCCI at a date a time that suits the trainer.

For more information or to book a place please follow this link

<http://www.safeguarding.ie/component/eventbooking/train-the-trainers-course>

State Inquiries

Northern Ireland

The Northern Ireland Historical Inquiry Team into Institutional Abuse have submitted their report to the First and Deputy First Minister in Northern Ireland. It is expected that the report will be made public on 20th January 2017.

England, Scotland and Wales

The Independent Inquiry into Child Sexual Abuse in England is investigating whether public bodies and other non-state institutions in England and Wales have taken seriously their responsibility to protect children from sexual abuse, and make recommendations for change in the future. Child Safeguarding practice in some Church Bodies within the Catholic Church is being investigated as part of this Inquiry.

Australia

The Royal Commission in Australia will hear evidence on Catholic Church practice from Ireland in February 2017.

Republic of Ireland

Tusla have now completed their Ferns Review report of Religious Congregations and Orders and will produce their report in the coming weeks.

Working with Respondents

Initial discussions are about to take place with Association of Catholic Priests (ACP) and other stakeholders to develop better practice in support those accused of child abuse. The NBSCCCI's position is clear in that offering support to accused priests and religious is also a way of ensuring the safety of children. If you would like to offer views on [Standard 4](#) please contact peter.kieran@safeguarding.ie.

Visiting Priests

The NBSCCCI has become aware that priests who are out of ministry have been able to celebrate public mass as visiting priests, without any checks being carried out. Detailed guidance on ensuring that visiting priests are in good standing can be found by following this link: <http://www.safeguarding.ie/images/Pdfs/Standards/Standard%201.pdf> and scrolling to Page 29.

Practice Issues

Visiting Clerics or Visiting Persons in Any Form of Consecrated Life Ministering at Shrines, National Shrines and International Shrines

Definitions

A Shrine is a Catholic church or other sacred place which with the approval of the local ordinary is by reason of special devotion frequented by the faithful as pilgrims (Canon 1230).

To be considered a National Shrine the approval of the National Irish Episcopal Conference is necessary. For it to be described as International, the approval of the Holy See is necessary (Canon 1231).

For Visiting Clerics or those in any form of consecrated life, ministering in Shrines and National Shrines in Ireland

Prior to the visit, where there is an intention to engage in public ministry, all visiting clerics and those in any form of consecrated life must follow Guidance 1.1C. In particular:

- If the visiting cleric is ministering at a one-off event which is not considered a regulated activity (as defined in Guidance 1.1B) the cleric must provide his celeret for inspection by the parish priest or duly delegated person and this should be noted beside the visitors signature in the register.
- If the ministry is for a short term basis, the visiting cleric must follow the requirements set out in Guidance 1.1C.
- If the ministry is being carried out by a non-ordained religious then the guidance outlined in Guidance 1.1C must be followed.

Visiting Clerics celebrating or concelebrating Mass at Shrines outside Ireland

- If the Shrine is outside of Ireland all child safeguarding requirements of the organisation within which the ministry takes place must be followed, in accordance with Guidance 2.1J.
- The main celebrant must allocate responsibility for each cleric wishing to concelebrate to have their celeret cards checked to ensure they are in good standing.
- A cleric who is out of ministry due to child safeguarding concerns must not attempt to celebrate any sacrament in public while abroad.

Reporting child protection suspicions, concerns, knowledge or allegations to An Garda Síochána

An Garda Síochána have clarified with the NBSCCCI that the telephone number of the Gardai National Protective Services Bureau **should only be used** when referring allegations against clerics or religious. If the allegation is related to a lay member of Church personnel or the allegation is about someone who is not a member of Church personnel, then the local Garda station number should be used. All numbers are contained in Appendix D of the guidance which can be accessed here <http://www.safeguarding.ie/images/Pdfs/Standards/Appendix%20D.pdf>.



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

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Children in the Catholic Church in Ireland, 2017

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