

Those who have been abused

Anyone who has been abused should be assisted and supported in seeking help. Children need someone to turn to when they are being abused. Often they do not know where to go for help so it is important to give them information about where and how to get help and advice if they have a concern.

Support Person

Appointed by the Bishop, the Support Person is to be available to those who make an allegation or disclose abuse under these procedures. The role of the Support Person is to assist, where appropriate, with communication with the Delegate to facilitate access to information and to represent their needs and concerns during the inquiry.

See **Contact Details for Counselling Services** at the beginning of this document for listing.

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Those who have harmed others should be helped to face up to the reality of abuse, as well as being assisted in healing in a manner which does not compromise children's safety.

Adviser

Appointed by the Bishop, the Adviser is to be available to the person about whom a child protection concern, suspicion, disclosure or allegation has been made. The role of the Adviser is to represent their needs and assist, where appropriate, with communication with the Delegate and the Diocese.

Church personnel

Child abuse is distressing and can be difficult to deal with. The diocese recognises that it has a duty to ensure advice and support is available to help Church personnel and volunteers play their part in protecting children.

- See **SECTION 2.5** – How to respond to people raising a concern
- See **SECTION 2.6** - If a child begins to tell you about abuse

Remember: all Church organisations and personnel can access specialist advice about child protection issues from **National Board for Safeguarding Children** (see overleaf)

National Board for Safeguarding Children in the Catholic Church (NBSCCC or 'National Board')

The first National Board was established by the Irish Bishops' Conference, the Conference of Religious of Ireland and the Irish Missionary Union to provide independent advice and to monitor safeguarding practices in the Church.

The National Board is independent in order to allow it to undertake independent advisory, audit and inspection functions. The National Board will produce an annual report, which provides data and commentary on the practice of the Church organisations regarding the safeguarding of children. In particular, the annual report will contain summaries of the learning gained from reviews and audits carried out during the year to which the annual report relates.

The National Office for Safeguarding Children ('the National Office')

The National Office for Safeguarding Children was established by the National Board.

Its main purpose is to:

- implement the policies and decisions of the National Board
- undertake advisory and audit tasks
- act as a resource for Church organisations and will be accessible to all such bodies for
- advice, or guidance
- support the diocesan / congregational Designated Officers
- monitor practice within the Church organisations regarding adherence to the standards set down within this guidance, both through the self-audit process and through its auditors

See **Contact Details for Child Protection Services** at the beginning of this document for contact details for the National Office.