

Loreto Sisters

Guidance on Cross-Referencing Safeguarding Policies

Introduction

All Church personnel are required to follow the policy for the Catholic Church in Ireland and adhere to the seven safeguarding standards. However, there are a number of instances where other child safeguarding policies need to be considered in terms of child safeguarding. These are detailed below.

When working/volunteering for another organisation:

If a Loreto Sister works for another external organisation, she is bound by the policies and procedures of that organisation, which include safeguarding and notification of allegations. Therefore, if a suspicion, concern or allegation is raised with that member while in the employment of that organisation, she must report it using the safeguarding procedures of the organisation.

If there is an allegation against a Loreto Sister while working with that organisation, the following will be observed:

- If the allegation relates to that organisation, the reporting procedures will be initiated by the DLP of that organisation in accordance with their safeguarding procedures.
- The sister will either directly inform her province leader or give permission for the DLP of the organisation to inform their province leader.
- Any decision to suspend the sister from that organisation rests with the management of the organisation.
- Any decision to remove the sister from ministry rests with the province leader.
- Internal Church processes regarding the care and management of the sister will be followed upon conclusion of any criminal investigation and other organisational disciplinary proceedings.

If there is an allegation against a Loreto Sister, which is outside of the work undertaken as part of the organisation, the following will be observed:

- The Loreto DLP will report using the flow chart outlined in the reporting procedure.
- Church procedures will be followed in relation to preliminary investigation and management of the sister.
- Consideration will be given to the appropriateness of sharing the information about the allegation with the other organisation; advice from Tusla/ HSCT should be sought and discussed with the sister, whose permission may be required to share the information.

If children and young people are using Loreto property as part of Church- related activity with staff or volunteers from an external organisation:

This situation can occur in a number of different ways, including schools using Loreto property as part of sacramental preparation, altar servers going from school to Loreto property and back again, school choirs practising in Loreto property, and youth groups on retreat in Loreto property that are being facilitated by Loreto personnel.

Each of these situations is individual and should be considered on a case-by-case basis. The province leader should agree with the external organisation in writing:

- Whose safeguarding policy applies and when.
- Who is responsible for the children and when.
- Which DLP will take responsibility for reporting allegations.

This should be recorded and stored appropriately.

If the Church authority presides over communities outside Ireland:

If this occurs, the policy of the Catholic Church in Ireland and the associated indicators applicable under the seven safeguarding standards should apply alongside local legislation. If there is a concern about reporting allegations of abuse to the local statutory authorities, advice should be sought from the NBSCCCI as to how to proceed.