

WHAT TO DO IF YOU WISH TO REPORT ALLEGATIONS, SUSPICIONS/CONCERNS

Children/young people occupy a central place in the heart of the Christian community. They have a right to be listened to and heard. The paramount consideration in all matters relating to children/young people is their safety and protection from all forms of abuse. In order to create and maintain a safe environment, Church organisations must respond effectively and ensure all allegations and suspicions of abuse are reported, both within the Church and to the Statutory Authorities. This responsibility to report is **mandatory**, and the only exception to this rule is the receipt of any information by a priest under the sacramental Seal of Confession.

Reporting a concern can be a challenging responsibility. The procedure needs to ensure that everyone is clear what steps to take to ensure that the safety of children/young people is the paramount consideration.

It is imperative to act immediately on receipt of a suspicion, concern, disclosure or allegation of abuse, and refer the matter to the **Designated Liaison Person (DLP)** without delay.

The Designated Liaison Person (DLP)

The Diocese of Ossory has appointed a Designated Liaison Person –

Mr Cathal Cullen

and a Deputy Designated Liaison Person -

Ms Rose Brophy

The task of the DLP is outlined in the National Guidelines as follows:

- Hearing child safeguarding concerns;
- Passing on child safeguarding concerns to the statutory authorities;
- Managing cases and all associated documents;
- Liaising with the support person, advisor and the Church authority;
- Passing on child safeguarding concerns to the NBSCCCI;
- Conducting internal inquiries;
- Contributing to upholding the seven standards in practice and behaviour;
- Completing an annual report regarding compliance with Standards 2, 3 and 4 for the Church authority;
- Monitoring respondents

If you have a child safeguarding concern or wish to raise a matter from the past you should contact the Designated Liaison Person (DLP) without delay.

DLP Mr Cathal Cullen - 087 100 0232

Deputy DLP Ms Rose Brophy 087 331 4330

Remember, it is not your role to investigate
Your role is to report to the DLP

For further information – www.ossory/safeguarding/reporting.ie