

KEEPING OUR CHURCH FAMILY SAFE (Procedures – Ireland)

FOREWORD

The Seventh-day Adventist Church in Ireland is part of the British Union Conference (BUC) of churches and has adopted the Keeping Our Church Family Safe (KCFS) policy. These procedures reflect how the Church in Ireland will act to safeguard its children and adults at risk.

The Irish Mission is a family of 17 churches across the Republic of Ireland and Northern Ireland. These procedures fully accord with the law and guidance relating to the protection of children and adults across Ireland. They reflect the safeguarding legislation and policy for both Northern and Southern Ireland.

The Keeping Our Church Family Safe procedures set out the church's guidelines relating to safeguarding our church family and the procedures to be followed in order to reduce, to the minimum, the risk of abuse to the children and adults we have contact with through all our church activities.

Dan Serb
Mission President

Ian Sweeney
BUC President

[Electronic signatures to be inserted]

Protecting Children and Adults in Ireland

The Seventh-day Adventist Church in Ireland is committed to the safeguarding of children and vulnerable adults (adults at risk¹). National guidance *Children First: National Guidance for the Protection and Welfare of Children*² and Co-operating to Safeguard Children and Young People in Northern Ireland stated 'Organisations which provide services to children or young people must have policies and procedures in place which put child safeguarding at the heart of the organisation's ethos, governance and practice, and which reflect this policy. Policies and procedures must be owned at all levels within the organisation in line with good practice guidelines as set out in Our Duty to Care – Principles of Good Practice for the Protection of Children and Young People and Safer Organisations: Safer Children'.³ The Church is guided by the country's law and guidance in its commitment to protecting children and vulnerable adults/adults at risk. See Appendix 14 for full details.

In Northern Ireland the Department of Health, Social Services and Public Safety (DHSSPS) is the lead department on child protection and is responsible for policy. Responsibility for children's services and child protection in Ireland rests with the Health Service Executive (HSE) and An Garda Síochána. The Department of Children and Youth Affairs (DCYA) is the lead department in terms of policy development and implementation.

Protecting children means recognising when to be concerned about their safety and understanding when and how to share these concerns, how to assess such concerns and, fundamentally, what steps are required to ensure an individual's safety and well-being.

¹The term Adult at Risk has recently been adopted in Northern Ireland and will be used interchangeably with Vulnerable Adults

² <http://www.dcy.gov.ie/documents/Publications/ChildrenFirst.pdf>