



# **Safeguarding Children and Adults with Disability from Abuse**

## **A Guide for Families**

THE BROTHERS OF CHARITY SERVICES HAVE A RESPONSIBILITY TO PROTECT AND PROMOTE THE WELFARE OF THOSE WHO USE OUR SERVICES AND TO PROVIDE A SAFE ENVIRONMENT. THIS RESPONSIBILITY ALSO EXTENDS TO ENSURING THAT ALL INDIVIDUALS ARE TREATED WITH DIGNITY AND RESPECT AT ALL TIMES.

The Brothers of Charity Services has policies and procedures in place that clearly outline our responsibilities in protecting and promoting the welfare of those who use our Services, and in delivering services in a safe environment. Staff and all people associated with the Services are trained in best practice in safeguarding people who are vulnerable, and in what to do if they have a concern or suspicion about abuse of any kind. They are also required to treat people at all times with dignity and respect.

Children and Adults with an Intellectual Disability may be particularly vulnerable to abuse.

Abuse may be defined as:

Any act, or failure to act, which results in a breach of a vulnerable person's human rights, civil liberties, physical and mental integrity, dignity or general well being, whether intended or through negligence, including sexual relationships or financial transactions to which the person does not or cannot validly consent, or which are deliberately exploitative.

The policies for the safeguarding of children and adults with a disability from abuse outline:

1. Steps that need to be taken for the prevention of abuse and the protection of children and adults who use our Services, and
2. Procedures to be adhered to when it is suspected, observed, alleged, or disclosed that a person who uses our Services may have been abused, or where there are any concerns about abuse.

The Designated Liaison Person is the person appointed by the Brothers of Charity Services to co-ordinate all welfare concerns regarding children and adults.

### **What happens if there is a concern for the welfare of a child?**

If a concern arises for the welfare of a child, staff must report this to their manager and/or the Designated Liaison Person. This report must also be put in writing.

These concerns are then reported in writing to Tusla, the Child and Family Agency whose role it is to investigate and follow up on child protection concerns. These concerns may also be reported to the Gardaí and HIQA, if appropriate.

If a parent has a concern for their child while in our Services, they can report this to the staff, manager or Designated Liaison Person, or go directly to Tusla, Child and Family Agency with their concerns. If they report this to staff of the Brothers of Charity Services, these concerns will also be referred to Tusla, Child and Family Agency.

The Brothers of Charity Services will work in partnership with families and Tusla, Child and Family Agency to provide support where needed in ensuring the safety of children.

### **What happens if a concern arises for the welfare of an Adult?**

If a concern arises for the welfare of an adult using our Services, staff must report this to their manager and/ or the Designated Liaison Person. This report must also be made in writing.

Immediate action, where needed, takes place to ensure the safety of the person.

An initial assessment of the concern takes place and actions are agreed.

The person's family is informed of the concern with the consent of the individual.

If there are possible welfare concerns, these are reported in writing to the HSE and the Gardaí and HIQA, if appropriate.

A case meeting is held to develop a protection plan which outlines actions required to protect and support the person.

The implementation of the plan is regularly reviewed.

If there is an allegation against a staff member, this is reported to the HR Department who will follow the HSE “Trust in Care” Process.

All client protection concerns are reviewed by the Brothers of Charity Management and Monitoring Group whose role it is to ensure the systems are in place to facilitate the safety of Children and Adults with Intellectual Disability.

All notes regarding child/adult client protection concerns are held on a confidential Designated File.

**Contact details of the Designated Liaison Person:**

**Phone:** 091 721400

**Address:** Brothers of Charity Services, Woodlands  
Centre, Renmore, Galway.

For full details on this and all other policies, see our website at

**[www.brothersofcharity.ie](http://www.brothersofcharity.ie)**

Please feel free to contact the local Social Worker, Service Manager or Designated Liaison Person if you have any questions.

*We support people to be valued citizens in their local community, to have ordinary life experiences and to be closely connected to family and friends. We are committed to supporting people to make choices about their lives and to the provision of quality services that meet people's needs.*

*The Brothers of Charity Services Galway Vision Statement*

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