

## SAFE ENVIRONMENTS

The Society of African Missions is committed to ensuring that Standard One of its Safeguarding Policy 'Creating Safe Environments' is implemented through good practice. Please refer to the recommended minimum supervision ratios of adults to children as outlined below in order to comply with SMA requirements. Children participating in any activity taking place on SMA property must be supervised by two adults.

**0 - 2 years** - one adult to three children

**2 - 3 years** - one adult to four children

**4 - 8 years** - one adult to six children

**9 - 12 years** - one adult to eight children

**13 - 18 years** - one adult to ten children

**The Code of Behaviour for SMA members, co-workers and associates is available on [www.sma.ie](http://www.sma.ie)**



*"There is no trust more sacred than the one the world holds with children. There is no duty more important than ensuring that their rights are respected, that their welfare is protected, that their lives are free from fear and want and that they can grow up in peace." Kofi Annan*



*SOME USEFUL CONTACTS*

### SMA DESIGNATED LIAISON PERSON

Elizabeth Murphy,  
"Feltrim", Blackrock Road, Cork. T12 N6C8  
087 7135 240 - 021 4616 303  
Email: [dlpsafeguarding@sma.ie](mailto:dlpsafeguarding@sma.ie)

### SMA PROVINCIAL LEADER

021 4616 300

### GARDA NATIONAL PROTECTIVE SERVICES

**BUREAU**, Harcourt Square, Dublin 2.  
01 6663 430/35 email: [gnspp@garda.ie](mailto:gnspp@garda.ie)

### TÚSLA CHILD AND FAMILY AGENCY

**NATIONAL OFFICE** 01 8976 888

### DIOCESAN SAFEGUARDING OFFICES

**CORK AND ROSS**: Cleo Yates, Director of Safeguarding, 021 4301 717 - 087 3553 024  
[safeguarding@corkandross.org](mailto:safeguarding@corkandross.org)

### LOCAL GARDA STATIONS



SMA Justice Office , African Missions, Wilton , Cork

# SOCIETY OF AFRICAN MISSIONS IRISH PROVINCE



## CHILD SAFEGUARDING

## POLICIES AND PROCEDURES



**"Every child you encounter is a  
divine appointment."**

Wess Stafford

## CHILD SAFEGUARDING POLICY STATEMENT OF THE CONSTITUENT MEMBERS OF THE CATHOLIC CHURCH IN IRELAND

As a constituent member of the Catholic Church in Ireland, we recognise and uphold the dignity and rights of all children, are committed to ensuring their safety and well-being, and will work in partnership with parents/guardians to do this. We recognise each child as a gift from God, and we value and encourage the participation of children in all activities that enhance their spiritual, physical, emotional, intellectual and social development.

All Church personnel (including clergy, religious, staff and volunteers) have a responsibility to safeguard children through promoting their welfare, health and development in a safe and caring environment that supports their best interest and prevents abuse.

The full texts of the Society's Safeguarding policy, procedures and standards are available on [www.sma.ie](http://www.sma.ie)

Further information is also available on the following websites:

[www.safeguarding.ie](http://www.safeguarding.ie) which is the website of the National Board for Safeguarding Children in the Catholic Church in Ireland.

Contact details for the Board: 01/5033124.

Address: NBSCCI, New House, St. Patrick's College, Maynooth, Co. Kildare

[www.corkandross.org](http://www.corkandross.org) is the Diocesan website.

Please contact  
the SMA Safeguarding Office,  
Feltrim, Blackrock Road,  
Cork T12N6C8  
to request a hard copy of the SMA Policy and  
Standards

### LETTER TO AN ADULT FROM A YOUNG PERSON

Dear Adult,  
Please be a good role model for me. I need you to care for me, to help me feel valued and to never abuse the trust I put in you. I ask you to keep me safe and if I come to you having been abused whether it is physically, sexually, verbally or emotionally, please listen to me with care. I ask you to believe me and help me to know it is not my fault.

I don't want anyone to have the mind-set that abuse is okay. When I say NO it is because I am hurt or feel uncomfortable so please do not put me in that situation. We all only get one life: please do not allow mine to be ruined.

I am my own person.

I am no one's property.

I deserve to be treated with respect and dignity.

The main point of the letter is to ask you to treat me as an equal. Never hurt me, celebrate the good times with me and care for me through the hard times.

Yours sincerely  
Me.

Adapted from the  
Sisters of Mercy  
Safeguarding Leaflet



## CHILD SAFEGUARDING IS EVERYONE'S CONCERN

What is the difference between child protection and child safeguarding?

**Child protection** is normally used to describe the process of protecting a child identified as either suffering, or likely to suffer, significant harm as a result of abuse or neglect.

**Child safeguarding** is the action taken to promote the welfare of children and protect them from harm.

**Every adult**, not only **mandated** persons, has a duty of care towards children and everyone should be alert to the possibility that children with whom they are in contact may be being abused or be at risk of abuse. A child is defined as anyone under the age of 18.

**Mandated persons** are people who have contact with children and/or families who, by virtue of their qualifications, training and experience, are in a key position to help protect children from harm. Members of the clergy or pastoral care workers of a church or other religious community are mandated persons.

**Examples of abuse/neglect might be:**

- A child may be deliberately injured or their parents/carers may fail to protect them from injury
- Parent/carers may not be meeting a child's essential needs for food, hygiene, clothing or medical care
- Parent/carers may be leaving a child without proper supervision
- A child may be subject to sexual abuse or exploitation
- A child may be affected by seeing or hearing domestic abuse
- Parents/carers may not be meeting a child's emotional needs

**Gardaí should be notified immediately if a child is in danger. Contact Túsla or the Gardaí if you have any other concerns.**