

Safeguarding Newsletter

Diocese of Kerry
Issue 2, June, 2018



Child Safeguarding Statement

The Diocese of Kerry has published a Child Safeguarding Statement on 9th March, 2018. This statement has been prepared to comply with new requirements under the Children First Act, 2015.

The Statement focuses on activities that involve children and the guiding principles and safeguarding procedures in place to keep children safe. The statement is available from the Diocesan website.

<http://www.dioceseofkerry.ie/safeguarding/safeguarding-statement/>

Mandated Persons

From 11th December 2017, Priests and Deacons are 'mandated persons' under the Children First Act, 2015.

This requires Priests and Deacons to report child protection and welfare concerns to the Child and Family Agency, TUSLA.

There are two main legal obligations: Reporting harm to children and to assist Tusla, if requested, in assessing a concern which has been the subject of a mandated report.

Threshold for reporting: Report if a child has been harmed, is being harmed, or is at-risk of being harmed. The act defines harm as an assault, ill-treatment, neglect or sexual abuse, and covers single and multiple instances.

Local Safeguarding Parish Representatives are not considered mandated persons under this legislation.

New date for Parish Audit

Thanks to all parishes for your continued support with our annual parish audit. We will now distribute parish audits on the week beginning 24th of September with a return date of October 26th.

Outstanding Vetting Applications

An important email regarding outstanding vetting applications has been circulated to parishes. Each parish is required to contact relevant persons from this list and inform them that they need to contact the Diocesan Office regarding their vetting as soon as possible.

If people on this list are no longer involved in parish work please contact the Diocesan office with this information.

New Practice for Register in the Sacristy

The register needs to be complete only at masses where children are rostered for duties.

In the instance where altar servers do not turn up to serve at mass please write the statement '*no servers*' in the register.

This practice is worthwhile for the purpose of reviewing past registers as it makes it very clear which masses involved children.

Bishop Ray Browne has designated 14th of October as Safeguarding Sunday. This will be an annual event in the Diocese. Further details will be sent to parishes.