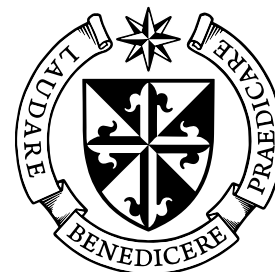


Guidance 16

Information for Complainants and Survivors of Child Abuse



Making a complaint of abuse

- People are encouraged to report information about child abuse directly to the Gardaí or the PSNI and/or Tusla or HSCT.
- Meeting the Designated Liaison Person (DLP) and/or Deputy DLP; Every person will be heard with compassion and in a spirit of acceptance. The needs of the person will be prioritised in choosing the location, time and place of a meeting.
- Offering support: The person making a complaint is encouraged to bring somebody with them to the meeting for support. They will be offered a “support person” and given information on professional support services.
- Referral to the statutory authorities, (Gardaí/PSNI/Tusla/HSCT): The DLP will advise of the Dominicans’ responsibility to report information on child abuse to An Gardaí or the PSNI and Tusla or HSCT.
- Confidentiality: Any information shared is treated as highly confidential and only shared with those with a legitimate need to know, e.g., statutory authorities.
- Role of Gardaí and the PSNI: It is the responsibility of the Gardaí or the PSNI to investigate and establish if a crime has been committed. The Gardaí or the PSNI will not contact a victim or survivor with their consent.
- Role of Tusla and HSCT: It is the role of the social services provided by Tusla and HSCT to promote the welfare and protection of children. They will assess if a person presents as a risk to children.

The Designated Liaison Person (DLP)

Contact details for the DLP and Deputy DLP are overleaf. Their role is to ensure that all child protection concerns are responded to and managed in accordance with civil law and church policy. If you decide to make your complaint directly to the Dominicans, the DLP or Deputy DLP is the person who will hear your complaint and explain the process to you.

Support for those affected by abuse

Many people have suffered throughout their lives because of abuse they experience as children. The effects can be devastating. We wish to offer supports to those who have been affected in this way and the following supports are available:

- The Catholic Church has established an independent professional counselling support service called *Towards Healing* which can be accessed free to those who experience abuse (contact details below).
- Spiritual support services are available through a support service *Towards Peace* (contact details below).
- A pastoral meeting with the Prior Provincial and/or an identified other is available at the appropriate time or venue that suits the person who has experienced abuse.
- An identified person known as a Support Person will be made available to any person who makes a complaint of abuse against a Dominican. The support person can help you to understand the process involved in making a complaint, they will listen to you, and they can help you to access professional support services.

Useful contacts

An Garda Siochána	Free & Confidential Number: 1800 555 222	
PSNI	999 Emergencies 101 non-emergencies	
Tusla (Child and Family Agency)		www.tusla.ie
Northern Health and Social Care Trust	Telephone: (028) 9442 4000 Email: user.feedback@northerntrust.hscni.net	
Towards Healing	Freephone (Ireland): 1800 303416 Freephone (UK): 0800 096 3315	www.towardshealing.ie
Towards Peace	Phone Number: (01) 505 3028	www.towardspeace.ie

Contact Details

Designated Liaison Person	Mobile Number: (089) 708 7881 Email: safeguardingoffice@dominicans.ie
Deputy Designated Liaison Person	Contact Number: 083 393 4391