

SAFEGUARDING CHILDREN

Policy Statement



The Diocese of Elphin is committed to best practice in the area of Safeguarding Children. As a faith community we the laity, the religious, the priests and the Bishop of the Diocese value and encourage the participation of children and young people in all Church liturgies and parish activities that enhance their spiritual, physical, intellectual, emotional and social development. We appreciate the generous service of the adults who facilitate such participation and respect their integrity.

Each child/young person is a gift from God and has an inherent right to dignity of life and bodily integrity, which must be respected, nurtured and protected by all. We recognize the dignity and rights of every child/young person and are committed to ensuring their safety and well-being.

The welfare of the child must always be paramount. We acknowledge that all who work with children/young people have a special duty of care towards them. Leaders must create a safe environment for children/young people in order to secure their protection and enable their full participation in the life of the Church.

REPORTING CONCERNS

If you have a child protection concern or wish to report an allegation of child abuse please contact one of our Diocesan Designated Liaison Persons who are responsible for receiving/managing concerns and complaints relating to safeguarding children that involve church personnel.

DESIGNATED LIAISON PERSONS

Mrs. Mary Nicholson, Tel: 086 3750277
C/O St. Mary's, Sligo.

Ms Helen Diskin, Tel: 087 0516888
C/O St. Mary's, Sligo.

Alternatively if you wish to report directly to the statutory authorities please contact the **Child and Family Agency's Duty Social Worker** or the **Local Garda Station.**

CHILD AND FAMILY AGENCY - DUTY SOCIAL WORK CONTACT DETAILS

Boyle	071 96 62087	
Sligo	071 91 55133	
Castlerea	094 96 21155	
Carrick-on-Shannon	071 96 50324	087 20 33267
Roscommon	090 66 37528	
Tubbercurry	071 91 20062	087 92 99666
Galway City	091 523122	
Athlone	090 6483106	
Tuam	093 26800	
Castlebar	094 90 22333	
Oughterard	091 552200	
Ballina	096 21511	
Loughrea	091 847820	
Swinford	094 92 51900	

**An Garda Síochána
Confidential Service**

Tel 1800 666 111



For further information on diocesan policy and procedures in relation to safeguarding children contact Mr. Frank McGuinness, Director of Youth Ministry and Safeguarding Children, St. Mary's Sligo.
Tel: 087 9880690 or 071 9162670