Flowchart - responding to allegations of abuse or concerns about children and adults at risk

Catholic Safeguarding Standards Agency
Building trust, delivering change.

All concerns must be brought to the diocesan Safeguarding Coordinator or Religious Safeguarding Lead. Never delay taking action. If you are unable to contact the Safeguarding Coordinator or Religious Safeguarding Lead you can contact the Catholic Safeguarding Standards Agency (CSSA) if you require advice.

Allegation of harm of a child or adult at risk
by a member of clergy / religious / church personnel comes to light, including:

- inappropriate behaviour
- possible harm caused to a child or adult at risk, or
- possible crime committed against a child or adult at risk

Disclosure by child or adult at risk | Observations | Concerns | Complaint or whistleblowing | Allegations & reports

- Listen to and reassure the child / adult
- Avoid expressing disbelief or colluding
- Tell them what you will do next and keep them updated
- Do not promise confidentiality but do say that their wishes should be considered by all professionals
- Information must only be shared on a need to know basis

Is there any immediate risk or danger?

Yes

- Immediately contact the Police, Social Services or Local Authority Designated Officer
- Contact the Safeguarding Co-ordinator
- Take notes and pass on within 1 day (Form CM1) A record will be kept
- Safeguarding Co-ordinator will provide feedback

No

- Contact the Safeguarding Co-ordinator
- If the Safeguarding Coordinator is not available contact the Police, Social Services or Local Authority Designated Officer
- Take notes and pass on within 1 day (Form CM1) A record will be kept
- Allegations of past abuse must be reported to the police, even if the alleged perpetrator is no longer alive or not perceived to be a current risk to children / adults at risk
- Safeguarding Co-ordinator will provide feedback

Quick Contacts

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