

Safeguarding Policy Statement

Seventh-day Adventist Church in Ireland



The Seventh-day Adventist Church in Ireland is committed to safeguarding the welfare of children and adults. We recognise our duty and responsibilities as a church to provide an environment which seeks to eliminate the risk of abuse. We will take all reasonable steps to safeguard the welfare of children and adults at risk.

- (a) In affirming the dignity and worth of each human being we will not condone neglect, bullying or any form of physical, sexual, emotional and spiritual abuse of any individual whether in the church or in the community.
- (b) The Seventh-day Adventist church has a responsibility to protect children and adults at risk who are involved in any of its programmes. We will do so through the creation of safe environments, and the provision of training, advice and support to all staff and volunteers.
- (c) The church will demonstrate senior management commitment to safeguarding and maintain arrangements to reflect this, with clear lines of accountability.
- (d) The church will report to the appropriate agency all allegations of abuse and will cooperate fully with other professional agencies who will identify the perpetrators and to protect the children and adults who may be at risk.
- (e) The church will help persons in need to identify and access the range of professional services. It will assist families in grief over relationships that cannot be restored. It will address the spiritual questions confronting abused persons, seeking to understand the origins of abuse and family violence.
- (f) When changed attitudes and behaviour open possibilities for forgiveness and new beginnings, the church will provide a ministry of reconciliation, but intervention by appropriate agencies must occur to hold the perpetrator accountable for his or her actions and safeguard children and adults.
- (g) The church will promote and hold its staff and volunteers to the highest form of personal and professional behaviour as we reflect Christ in all aspects of our conduct. We will carefully select and support all those with a responsibility towards our children and adults who may be at risk.

For further details please consult our full safeguarding policy "Keeping our Church Family Safe" available online at www.adventist.ie.