

STANDARD 1

CREATING AND MAINTAINING SAFE ENVIRONMENTS GUIDANCE FOR INDICATOR 1.5

1.5A Guidance on External Groups who Use Church Property

It is a requirement that all groups working with children in the Church body and/or using facilities owned by the Church body are insured, and that they have a child safeguarding policy in place.

The general principle is that the obligation to comply with requirements relating to insurance and child safeguarding rests with the group using Church property, and not with the Church body.

1. It is the responsibility of any group using Church property to run activities involving children to ensure that they comply with all applicable child safeguarding and protection legislation and guidelines.
2. The group should have their own child safeguarding policy and procedures. The group is also responsible for liaising with Tusla/HSCT (Health and Social Care Trust) (as appropriate), to ensure that the policy and procedures meet the statutory requirements.
3. The group should have appropriate insurance for the activity they are running.
4. The Church body should at no stage assist any outside group in developing a child safeguarding policy.
5. The Church body should have confirmation in writing from the group that they have a child safeguarding policy in place. It is not the role of the Church body to validate the adequacy of the policy; that is the responsibility of Tusla/HSCT.
6. The Church body should have confirmation in writing from the group that they have appropriate insurance in place, which includes the following:
 - The name of their insurers;
 - The policy number;
 - The period of cover of the policy;
 - The limit of indemnity.

External organisations that offer advice and support regarding child safeguarding policies

The following organisations may prove helpful in providing training and assisting external groups to create their own safeguarding policy.

Republic of Ireland

- Tusla Information and Advice Officers <http://www.tusla.ie/children-first/roles-and-responsibilities/organisations/children-first-training>
- Barnardos <http://www.barnardos.ie/what-we-do/training/training-and-consultancy.html>
- National Youth Council of Ireland <http://www.nycitraining.org>
- Dublin Rape Crisis Centre <http://www.drcc.ie/training-and-development/>

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Northern Ireland

- Children in Northern Ireland <http://www.ci-ni.org.uk/training-schedule>
- Youth Action Northern Ireland <http://www.youthaction.org/dynamic/programmemain.aspx?Author=TR&prog=101&ParCat=22&pid=5>
- NSPCC <http://www.nspcc.org.uk/what-you-can-do/get-expert-training/introduction-child-protection-training/>