

STANDARD 2

PROCEDURES FOR RESPONDING TO CHILD PROTECTION SUSPICIONS, CONCERNS, KNOWLEDGE OR ALLEGATIONS GUIDANCE FOR INDICATOR 2.1

2.1D Guidance on Responding to an Anonymous Allegation of Abuse

Anonymous complaints are to be handled carefully. Anxiety and fear may persuade some people not to immediately reveal their identity. It is sometimes difficult to act on information under these circumstances, unless at some point the name of the person raising the concern or making an allegation becomes known. If you are unsure whether or not the information you have received reaches the threshold for reporting, consultation with the statutory authorities may be appropriate.

The person raising the concern should be informed that anonymity might restrict the ability of professionals to access information or to intervene to protect a child. As much openness as possible should be encouraged. However, if you receive any identifiable information that relates to an allegation of abuse (current or past), you must pass this information onto the appropriate statutory authorities so that an investigation can be undertaken to assess child protection risks.

If the allegation relates to Church personnel, after the statutory investigation has been concluded, the statutory authorities should contact the DLP as a Church inquiry process may be required (Standard 4).