

STANDARD 2

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

2.1F Guidance on Responding to Someone who Makes an Allegation that does not Relate to Church Personnel

Whether or not a child protection concern involves a person in the Church, it is still the responsibility of everyone in the Church body to report it to the DLP, who will pass it on to the statutory authorities to ensure that children who may need help and protection are not left at risk of abuse.

It is vital to remember that the safety and well-being of any child should be the paramount consideration in any investigation, and **children must never be put at further risk of harm by delay or inaction.**

If a concern is raised in this way, the standard reporting procedure applies (Guidance 2.1A), although no further Church inquiry procedure or formal notification to the NBSCCCI is required.