



Making a Complaint

The Designated Liaison Person (DLP) for the Congregation is the person employed by the Spiritans to receive and manage allegations/disclosures or concerns of sexual abuse both historical and current. The DLP's name and contact details are available on this website.

The DLP co-ordinates an internal enquiry, refers to the Health and Social Services / An Garda Síochána / PSNI /NBSCCCI and facilitates any subsequent internal investigations. S/he is also responsible for ensuring that the person raising the concern/suspicion or making an allegation is regularly informed on how the matter is progressing.

A person who contacts the Spiritan Safeguarding Office is:

1. Offered an opportunity to give an account of his / her experience in a face-to-face meeting, by phone or by email. If s/he wants a face-to-face meeting, s/he will be met by the DLP and a Support Person if that is possible.
2. Advised that the Spiritan Safeguarding Office reports all allegations of sexual abuse to the civil and church authorities
3. Advised that s/he can make a complaint directly to the Gardaí in the Republic of Ireland or to the Police Service of Northern Ireland (PSNI). S/he is given the contact details of the relevant Garda / PSNI office.
4. Invited to provide an account of what happened and the circumstances in which it occurred. Detailed notes will be taken by the DLP which will be shared with the complainant for confirmation of their accuracy.

Please note that:

1. The Provincial Leader of the Spiritan Congregation is informed of the allegation.
2. If the Spiritan against whom an allegation is made is alive, an initial risk assessment, in collaboration with Tusla, is carried out to ascertain the current risk to children.
3. The respondent (person against whom an allegation is made) is informed of the allegation, after consultation with the police.
4. In the case of a living Spiritan, interim protective measures may be put in place.
5. A report is sent to the: Gardaí / PSNI and to Tusla in Republic of Ireland or Health and Social Care Trust (HSCT) in Northern Ireland, and also to the National Board for Safeguarding Children in the Catholic Church in Ireland (NBSCCCI).
6. The person is kept informed of the progress and management of the case by the DLP or Support Person.
7. The Provincial may seek advice from the Congregation's Advisory Panel and/or from the National Case Management Committee, Tusla / HSCT, or Gardaí/PSNI
8. When/if a Garda / PSNI investigation is completed, the Congregation will follow with a canonical inquiry. A report is sent to the Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith (CDF) which will advise on steps to be taken. The Spiritan Superior General is also informed. A police investigation takes precedence over an ecclesiastical investigation which is suspended until the police have completed their work.
9. If the Spiritan is still alive, the CDF may impose a number of sanctions up to and including exclusion from the Spiritan Congregation and dismissal from the clerical state.