



10th October 2024

Welcome!

Welcome to the Safeguarding module of the website of the Irish Spiritan Province (hereafter 'the Province').

The Spiritan Safeguarding Office (SSO) is responsible for a wide spectrum of duties across the Province. Its objective is to advise, train, nurture and enhance the culture of safeguarding of children and vulnerable adults within the Province. The SSO also has a series of obligations in relation to monitoring and reporting on compliance with legislation, policy and best practice and reporting on these activities as required. As part of its mandate within the Province, the SSO has a number of key functions:

- To implement safeguarding guidelines as determined by National Board for Safeguarding Children in the Catholic Church in Ireland (NBSCCCI).
- To participate in all relevant community, state, national and / or international forums which aim to enhance the quality and delivery of safeguarding measures for the Province.
- To assist the Province in further developing an informed and effective culture where the principles of safeguarding are meshed with everyday practice and interaction.
- To assist the Province in responding to the holistic needs of its former, current and / or future members.
- To fulfil statutory obligations as specified in the Children First Act (2015) and to assist / cooperate with all state agencies and national / international forums in accordance with the principles of natural justice and data integrity and protection under Irish and European Law.

The SSO endeavours to respond to the needs of all persons who have come forward, or who may yet come forward, to disclose their lived experiences of multiple forms of abuse by Spiritans. These individuals have reported and detailed how they have experienced the most profound and immeasurable adversity in their lives as children, all of which occurred while attending or engaging with Spiritans (lay or professed).

Our function in these circumstances is to offer those who contact us the opportunity to engage with us so that we can provide an appropriate space, free of the shame and guilt that might have been assigned to their experiences of abuse. Within that space there are opportunities to engage and pursue therapeutic and survivor-led services in their journey towards healing. Where a person does not wish to engage directly with the SSO, alternative pathways have been identified to ensure that all survivors of abuse are eligible for services, regardless of any legal actions that they may have initiated. Our objective is to meet individuals where they are, to provide holistic support in direct response to their specific needs, and to signpost them towards the spectrum of services and inputs that are available.

For additional information, please contact john.moore@spiritanplt.ie

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