To magnify Christ by making disciples in Clare and beyond

Safeguarding Adults Policy

i. Policy Statement

Clare Presbyterian Church promotes a zero-tolerance approach to abuse, wherever it occurs or whoever is responsible.

Clare Presbyterian Church is committed to practices that promote the welfare of adults and prevent harm.

It is the policy of Clare Presbyterian Church to safeguard to the best of its ability all adults interacting with its ministry.

This includes both preventing harm from occurring and actively taking actions to protect when an adult is at risk of being harmed or harm has occurred and we are aware of it.

The church demonstrates and achieves this by providing this policy and accompanying procedures, for all involved in adult ministry within the church, to ensure that all adults can engage with us, free from the threat of harm or abuse, and in a safe environment.

ii. Biblical basis for Safeguarding

Clare Presbyterian Church determines first and foremost that we have a biblical imperative for safeguarding.

Safeguarding is imperative for our church and a central component to our mission; when we do it well, we are proclaiming the excellencies of our Lord Jesus.

It is therefore our duty to use the Bible as our reference point. There we find guidance in how to safeguard others, not only as part of our legal and ethical duty but also as who we are at heart.

For example:

- love our neighbour as ourselves, (Lev 19:18 / Luke 10:27 / Gal 5:13-15)
- treat others as we would want to be treated (Matt 7:12)

- meet the needs of others (Romans 15:1-2 / Philippians 2:3-4)
- seek justice and correct oppression (Psalm 89:14 / Isaiah 1:17 / Micah 6:8)
- protect the weak and those in need (Psalm 82:3-4/ Matt 18:10)

iii. Legal Context

This policy and accompanying procedures have been developed with the following legislation and guidance documents considered, which all seek to safeguard adults;

- The rights of adults to live a life free from neglect, exploitation and abuse are protected by the Human Rights Act 1998.
- Their right to life is protected (under Article 2); their right to be protected from inhuman and degrading treatment (under Article 3); and their right to liberty and security (under Article 5).

Additional areas of legislation that inform this policy and accompanying procedures include;

- The Criminal Law Act (Northern Ireland) 1967
- The Safeguarding Vulnerable Groups (Northern Ireland) Order 2007 (as amended by the Protection of Freedoms Act 2012)
- The Health and Personal Social Services Act (Northern Ireland) 2001
- The Health and Personal Social Services (Northern Ireland) Orders and the Health and Social Care (Reform) Act (Northern Ireland) 2009
- The Mental Health (Northern Ireland) Order 1986
- The Police and Criminal Evidence (Northern Ireland) Order 1989
- The Disability Discrimination Act 1995
- The Race Relations (Northern Ireland) Order 1997
- The Public Interest Disclosure (Northern Ireland) Order 1998
- The Family Homes and Domestic Violence (Northern Ireland) Order 1998
- The Northern Ireland Act 1998, Section 75
- The Criminal Evidence (Northern Ireland) Order 1999
- The Sexual Offences (Northern Ireland) Order 2008
- The Forced Marriage (Civil Protection) Act 2007
- The Human Trafficking and Exploitation (Criminal Justice and Support for Victims) Act (Northern Ireland) 2015

The Adult Protection Bill, (NI) remains pending implementation at the date of this policy issue.

Additional Policy Context

The regional adult safeguarding policy “Adult Safeguarding: Prevention and Protection in Partnership” was launched in July 2015. The policy was jointly developed and published by the Department of

Health (DOH) and the Department of Justice (DOJ) on behalf of the Northern Ireland Executive.

This sets out how the Northern Ireland Executive intends adult safeguarding to be taken forward across all Government Departments, their agencies and in partnership with the voluntary, community, independent and faith organisations.

iv. Core Principles

This policy and accompanying procedures will state clearly the arrangements for adult safeguarding, including preventative and protective measures.

We understand that not all adults engaging with our missions or ministries are formally members of our church. We want to promote confidence that Clare Presbyterian Church is safe for all.

We understand that safeguarding involves a wide range of activity and the church plays a vital role in both the prevention of harm and the protection from harm of adults in our community.

All safeguarding for adults is underpinned by the core principles of respect for the unique worth of each individual and ensuring all adults in contact with our ministries are treated with dignity.

This policy applies to all aspects of ministry and work within Clare Presbyterian Church, whether this be on our premises or elsewhere.

Clare Presbyterian Church will therefore:

1. Ensure that we have an Adult Safeguarding Champion
2. Maintain robust procedures for the recruitment, checking and monitoring of staff and volunteers working with adults at risk of harm
3. Ensure effective working structures are in place to respond to concerns and that these are clearly understood through a regular system of training staff and volunteers
4. Ensure our church has clear processes for the reporting of abuse and the risk of harm, in regards to any adult at risk, both externally to statutory services and internally through a clearly identified chain of responsibility
5. Ensure that identified risks to adults are assessed and managed, ensuring general safety and risk management procedures are adhered to
6. Ensure that any person of risk engaged in our ministries (for example those with a history of serious offending behaviour) is safely managed, monitored and supported
7. Ensure that we have a timely, effective and sensitive approach to managing non-recent abuse disclosures
8. Ensure we have safe and confidential methods for managing information
9. Ensure that safeguarding procedures signpost to the appropriate department of the church for the management of comments, complaints and suggestions

This Policy will be executed in our church through a series of Procedures.

This Policy is displayed on our premises and will be displayed on our website.

Provision of alternative formats, when necessary, for example, large print or easy read versions, can be accessed by contacting the Adult Safeguarding Champion.

v. Review

This Policy will be reviewed every two years by the Kirk Session. If there is a legislative change that requires the Policy to be updated or reviewed within that time period, the Kirk Session will ensure that this update or review takes place, in accordance with advice from the Presbyterian Church in Ireland (PCI).

Accompanying Procedures will be reviewed at least every two years by the Kirk Session, as well as at any point there are legislative/good practice updates required, in accordance with advice from PCI. Procedural changes will be approved by the Kirk Session.

It is the responsibility of the Kirk Session to ensure changes are communicated in a timely and effective manner to the congregation.

Approved by the Kirk Session at its meeting on 11 May 2026.

Policy End

Procedures commence