

The Provincial Leadership Team has an appointed Safeguarding Manager who is responsible for managing all suspicions, concerns and allegations of abuse in relation to Adults at risk.

The Safeguarding Manager will provide information & support in relation to all safeguarding issues.

#### Contact Details:

Ursuline Sisters of the Roman Union - Ireland Wales Province

**Safeguarding Manager:** Ms Cleo Yates.

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E-mail: rustinesafeguarding@gmail.com

*As Ursulines St. Angela asks that we be respectful of all and to insist on the dignity and respect required for a person to reach her/his true potential.  
(Counsels, Prologue 3,7)*



## URSULINE SISTERS OF THE ROMAN UNION IRELAND WALES PROVINCE

### Safeguarding

#### Adults at Risk of Abuse

We the Ursuline Sisters of the Roman Union-Ireland/Wales Province are committed to the policies of the Catholic Church.

We accept and recognise our responsibilities to inform ourselves of the issues that cause harm to adults and to establish and maintain a safe, person-centred environment.

We will strive to safeguard adults at risk of abuse and will report concerns of abuse in line with best practice and national policy requirements.

#### WHAT TO DO IF YOU ARE WORRIED ABOUT ABUSE

If you suspect abuse, it is important that you report your concerns to the Safeguarding Manager or Provincial Leader either directly or through your Community Leader.

#### HOW MIGHT YOU BECOME AWARE OF ABUSE?

- You may see or hear something happen
- An adult at risk may tell you about apparent abuse
- A friend, family member or somebody else may tell you something that causes you concern
- You may notice injuries or physical signs that cause you concern
- You may notice either the victim or abuser behaving in a way that alerts you that something may be wrong.



#### What is Adult Abuse?

Abuse is a violation of an individual's human or civil rights by any other person. Abuse can take many forms.

#### Who is an Adult at Risk/ Vulnerable Adult?

A person over 18 years of age who is:

- At risk of experiencing abuse, neglect or exploitation and
- Lacks physical or mental capacity to protect themselves from harm at this point in their lives.

## WHAT FORM DOES ADULT ABUSE TAKE?



### Psychological Abuse

Including:

Verbal abuse, humiliation, bullying, using threats.

#### Possible signs

Withdrawn, too eager to do everything they are asked, not being able to do things they used to do, worrying people will be angry with them about minor things, Difficulty concentrating.

### Organisational Abuse

Including:

Abuse or mistreatment by an organisation or by any individual within a building where the person is living or receiving care.

#### Possible Signs:

The person has no personal clothing or possessions, there is no care plan for them, he or she is often admitted to hospital, there are instances of professionals treating them badly, or unsatisfactorily, or acting in a way that causes harm to the person.

### Discriminatory Abuse

Including:

Abusing a person because of their ethnic origin, religion, language, age, sexuality, gender or disability.

#### Possible Signs:

The person is not receiving the care services they require, their carer is overly critical or makes insulting remarks about the person, the person is made to dress differently from how they wish.

### Sexual Abuse

Including:

Direct or indirect sexual activity where the adult at risk cannot or does not agree to it.

#### Possible Signs

Bruising, itching, soreness in genital area, not wanting to be touched, sexually inappropriate language, changes in behavior, fear of particular adults.

### Financial or Material Abuse

Including:

Stealing from the person, cheating them, using them for financial gain, putting pressure on them about wills, property or inheritance or financial transactions, misusing or stealing their property, possessions, or benefits.

#### Possible Signs

Having unusual difficulty with finances, not having enough money, being overly protective of money and possessions, not paying bills, not having normal home comforts.

### Neglect / Self-Neglect

Including:

Withdrawing or not giving help that an adult at risk needs, therefore causing them to suffer.

#### Possible Signs

Having pain or discomfort, being very hungry or thirsty, poor hygiene, failing health, changes in behaviour.

### Online or Digital Abuse.

Including

Stalking through social media, harassment by text message or humiliation by posting pictures or videos.

#### Possible signs

Bullying & harassment  
Sexual Coercion  
Possessiveness & Control

### Human trafficking/Modern Slavery.

Including

The acquisition & movement of people by improper means, such as force, threat or deception, for the purposes of exploiting them.

#### Possible signs

Domestic servitude, forced criminality, forced labour, sexual exploitation and organ harvesting.

### Physical abuse

Including:

Hitting, slapping, kicking,

Burning, giving a person medicine that they do not need or that may harm them, restraining, inappropriate discipline.

#### Possible Signs

Bruising, fractures, pain, marks, not wanting to be touched, flinching when approached by another person.

Remember this is only a guide and you should not consider it a complete list of forms and signs of abuse. If you are worried about any signs, talk to your Safeguarding Manager or your Community Leader

IF SOMEONE TALKS TO YOU ABOUT BEING ABUSED OR YOU HAVE A CONCERN, PLEASE FOLLOW THE GUIDANCE BELOW:

#### DO

- ◆ Stay calm
- ◆ Listen and hear
- ◆ Express concern and sympathy about what has happened
- ◆ Reassure the person that they are doing the right thing in telling you
- ◆ Let the person know that the information will be taken seriously and tell them what will happen next
- ◆ Ensure the immediate safety of the person
- ◆ Be aware that medical or forensic evidence might be needed. Record what you have seen and heard in writing (the person's own words) Include as much detail as possible but only facts.
- ◆ Date and sign the report.
- ◆ Report the matter to the Safeguarding Manager without delay (within 24 hours)

#### DO NOT

- ◆ Stop someone disclosing to you
- ◆ Appear shocked or display negative emotions
- ◆ Promise to keep secrets
- ◆ Make judgements
- ◆ Give sweeping reassurances
- ◆ Gossip about the disclosure or pass any information about this to anyone who does not have a legitimate need to know
- ◆ Contact the alleged abuser
- ◆ Attempt to investigate yourself
- ◆ Leave details of your concern on a voice mail or by email
- ◆ Delay in reporting the matter.