

Safeguarding Children and Young People

070

Overview

Scouting Ireland has an obligation to all its members to provide an environment within which Scouting activities can be enjoyed in a safe, non-discriminatory and respectful manner.

Safeguarding our youth members should be paramount in everything we do and say. This item sets out the basics in overview, but you should keep yourself up to date on the Association's Safeguarding policies and procedures.

Relevance to you

As a Group Leader you should ensure that every adult in your Scout Group has completed the relevant training and is familiar with Scouting Ireland policies and the legal requirements in relation to the protection of children/vulnerable adults in the jurisdiction in which they operate; Republic of Ireland (ROI) or Northern Ireland (NI).

Scouting Ireland has its own Code of Good Practice (COGP) for working with youth members. It contains very informative fact sheets on social media, transport, medications and bullying. You can download a copy of the most recent version from the Scouting Ireland website. As a Group Leader, you should ensure that you have a copy of the most recent version at all times.

You should ensure that Scouters in your Scout Group attend the required training when they start with us (see GL Handbook items 040, 050 and 090). You should then encourage them to attend refresher training in relation to Safeguarding at least every three years to ensure they have the most recent information. Refresher training can be arranged locally through your County Training Co-Ordinator (CTC).

If you think that you have a child protection issue you should contact the Child Protection Officer (CPO) at National Office. Scouting Ireland also has an out of hours call line for these cases. The CPO and/or the out-of-hours team will provide information on the best way to approach the issue and provide advice on whether you need to file a report.

Any Safeguarding issues are dealt with in a confidential manner by the CPO and the Child Protection Management Team (CPMT). They follow a documented and approved process when dealing with any reported cases regarding the wellbeing or safety of any child in our association. Information on reporting procedures is contained in the Scouting Ireland COGP along with a copy of an incident report form.

Ensuring your Scouters follow the guidelines contained in the COGP will go a long way towards ensuring your youth members are safe and it is also the best way to ensure that our adult members are protected too.

Useful documents and publications

www.scouts.ie -> Resources -> Child Protection -> Child Protection Resources

SID 39.05 - Code of Good Practice

SID 40.05- Reporting Procedures

www.scouts.ie -> Resources -> National Mailings -> 2010 -> Child Protection - Good Practice and Recruitment

SID39A.10 - Child Protection Management Team

SID 39B.10 - Garda Vetting Policy

SID 39C.10 - Policy on Access Northern Ireland

Where to get help

If you have any concerns on this subject, please contact the CPO at National Office.

During normal office hours you can reach the CPO at National Office, by dialling 01 4956300 and asking for the CPO.

Outside normal office hours you can contact the out-of-hours team by dialling: 01 5547840 (ROI) or 028 95680080 (NI).

If you consider that the child is in immediate danger please call the Garda Síochána or PSNI directly and then report to the CPO as soon as possible afterwards.