

	Gasóga na hÉireann/Scouting Ireland			
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	Source: National Management Committee			
Scouting Ireland – Reporting Procedures (Where any child protection concern is raised)				
Revision	Date	Description		
B	11/05/2013	Staff Reporting & Insurance Revisions		
A	12/05/2012	Document Revised – CPMT composition clarified		
#	14/05/2005	Document Issued		

Anyone, youth member, adult member or parent/guardian can and should be facilitated in raising a child protection concern with the Scouting Ireland National Office

The onus is on everyone involved with Scouting Ireland to raise any child abuse concern or suspicion that they have to the Child Protection Officer (CPO). This may be done verbally or in writing. A completed Scouting Ireland internal reporting form should follow (this form is reproduced at the end of this Appendix). Discussing any such concerns with the CPO is not regarded as making an accusation against another person.

Any member of Scouting Ireland, who receives or knows of an allegation of child abuse in relation to a youth member, should report this to the Child Protection Officer (CPO) without delay. The CPO should inform the Child Protection Management Team (CPMT) of the reported concerns.

Any allegation, suspicion, or concern of child abuse that gives rise to reasonable grounds for concern will be reported to the Health Service Executive or Social Services Trust.

If a member fears that a young person might be in immediate danger they should directly contact An Garda Síochána or the PSNI as a matter of urgency, following this, report to the CPO.

The Child Protection Management Team (CPMT) is comprised of the CPO, Chief Executive Officer (CEO), Chief Commissioner - Adult Resources (CC-AR), and Chief Commissioner - Youth Programme (CC-YP) and one addition Adult Scouter as recommended by the National Team for Policy Implementation and Coordination. The Chief Commissioner - Adult Resources is the Chairperson of the Child Protection Management Team.

The Child Protection Management Team has responsibility to manage Child Protection concerns so as to:

- Ensure that no child is left at unnecessary risk.
- Seek advice from the Health Services Executive or Social Services Trust.
- Liaise, where deemed necessary, with the appropriate volunteer at local level. Keep a factual record

They may consult the Health Service Executive or Social Services Trust on whether a formal report to them is necessary and on the appropriate actions to take.

If, following consultation with the Health Services Executive or Social Services Trust, a formal report is not required; the CPO on behalf of the CPMT should inform the person who first raised the concern of the decision not to make a formal report and the reason(s) supporting this decision. The person should also be advised that if they wish they can pursue their concerns with the Health Service Executive or Social Services and should be provided with contact details of the relevant authorities.

If a formal report to the Health Service Executive or Social Services Trust is required.

The CPO should be responsible for ensuring that a Standard Reporting Form for the relevant statutory agency is completed and submitted without delay. The CPMT should designate the most appropriate person to inform the parents/guardians of the child, unless doing so might place the child at greater risk. The manner in which this is done should be based on the advice of the statutory agency. Responses should be noted and included in the formal report.

Where an allegation is made or a concern is raised against an adult member or employee*

The designated individual should also be responsible for keeping the parents/guardians updated on the progress of the procedure in Scouting Ireland.

The onus is on everyone involved with Scouting Ireland to report child protection concerns or suspicions relating to any adult involved in Scouting activities to the Child Protection Officer (CPO). This may be done verbally or in writing. A completed Internal Reporting Form (reproduced at the end of this Appendix) should follow.

Discussing any such concerns with the CPO is not regarded as making an accusation against another person.

If a concern is raised or an allegation/disclosure of child abuse is made against any member of Scouting Ireland who is over 18 years of age they will be expected to abstain, with a presumption of innocence, from participation in all Scouting activities.

Any member of Scouting Ireland, who receives or knows of an allegation of child abuse against an adult member/employee, should report this to the Child Protection Officer (CPO) without delay. The CPO will inform the Child Protection Management Team (CPMT) of allegations or concerns against an adult member / employee.

Any allegation, suspicion, or concern of child abuse against an adult member /employee that gives rise to reasonable grounds for concern will be reported to Health Service Executive or Social Services Trust.

If a member fears that a young person might be in immediate danger they should directly contact An Garda Síochána or the PSNI as a matter of urgency, following this, report to the CPO.

* Where a child protection concern relates to an employee it should be reported to the Chief Executive Officer. In such an instance the Chief Executive Officer undertakes the role of the CPO as outlined in this reporting procedure.

Where a child protection concern relates to the Chief Executive Officer it should be reported to the National Secretary. In such an instance the National Secretary undertakes the role of the CPO as outlined in this reporting procedure.

Where an allegation is made or a concern is raised in relation to Peer Abuse.

Peer abuse is where both the alleged perpetrator and victim of the abuse are children (i.e. under 18yrs). In a situation where child abuse is alleged to have been carried out by another child, the child protection procedures should be adhered to for both the victim and the alleged abuser; that is, it should be considered a child care and protection issue for both children (Children First: National Guidelines for

What to do if an allegation of abuse is made against you:

- Adults in Scouting may feel vulnerable to accusations of abuse. If an allegation is made, the adult should:
- Stay calm.
- Co-operate with the investigation.
- Abstain from Scouting activities, under the presumption of innocence, while the allegation is being investigated.
- Seek advice from, where appropriate, your Group Leader, Commissioner, National Office or a professional organisation, family or friends.
- Keep clear records of any meetings attended, discussions or correspondence about the allegations.
- Not discuss the allegation with the person who has made the allegation.

Where an allegation is made against an adult member (where a child is a member of Scouting Ireland), National Office will provide details to the adult on accessing Scouting Irelands Legal Protection Fund.

Information on appropriate counseling services should be made available from National Office if requested by either or both parties.

Recommendations for improvement in practices and procedures

Whether a formal report to the statutory authority is made or not the Chief Commissioner - Adult Resources may make recommendations to the appropriate level of the Association to address any issues identified in the report. Such recommendations could address:

- Shortcomings in training.
- Interpretations of Policies and Procedures.
- Practices not in line with the Code of Good Practice.
- Updating of the Code of Good Practice.
- Suitability of the adult in a leadership role.

