



Reporting an allegation about someone who holds a role(s) within the Church.



What happens if I report an allegation to the Diocese?

We report all allegations of abuse made against those working in the name of the Church to the statutory authorities (e.g. the police and the local authority). If you are concerned that a person is at risk of immediate harm, this must be reported immediately to the emergency services using 999.

What happens if the person I am reporting is deceased?

Where it is believed that a criminal offence may have taken place, regardless of whether the accused person is living or deceased, we will refer the allegation to the police within one working day.

What does the safeguarding office do when an allegation is reported?

The safeguarding office will document an initial account from the person reporting the allegation and outline the next steps required, in accordance with our policy:

[Managing and Responding to Safeguarding Allegations and Concerns](#)

What support will be available to me?

We will ensure that we respond to those who make contact with us in a professional and timely way. With your consent, we will signpost you to agencies and organisations that provide professional support services. Our Charter for the Care of Victims and Survivors can be accessed here:

[Victims and Survivors Charter](#)

What happens when an allegation is passed to the statutory authorities?

Where an allegation meets the requirement for the involvement of statutory agencies, the safeguarding office will participate in strategy meetings and case discussions, acting as the liaison point until the investigation is concluded.

Can I report an allegation anonymously?

Where a person making a report to us wishes to remain anonymous, this may limit the action we are able to take. If a referral to the statutory authorities is required and the reporting person requests anonymity, the request will be noted but it may not be possible for them to remain anonymous.

Individuals who hold roles within the Church must not make anonymous referrals because they are acting in their professional capacity with the requirement to safeguard and protect children and young people and adults at risk.

Will the person I am reporting know I have made an allegation?

The individual about whom the allegations are being raised will not be told until there is agreement to do this from the statutory authorities. This is because telling them could prejudice any investigation and/or endanger others.

What support is available for the person who is subject of the allegation?

Once the person is informed that an allegation has been made, consideration will be given as to what support is required. For members of clergy support is available via the Bishop's Office for the Support of Clergy and is tailored to the needs of the individual person.

Who will know that an allegation has been made?

During any investigation, information must only be shared with those who need to know, and with the relevant statutory agencies. To protect the integrity of the process, all communications in connection with the investigation, and the investigation itself, will remain confidential.

How will any risks be managed?

The safeguarding office, with the statutory authorities if they are involved, will consider all the information available and will take steps to ensure any risks are managed. These could relate to the person who has made the allegation, the person who has been accused or others.

What happens when a member of clergy is removed from ministry following an allegation being made?

There are occasions where a temporary removal from ministry is required whilst an allegation is being investigated. This is a neutral act and does not imply guilt on the part of the accused. It provides safeguards, protects the freedom of witnesses, and allows for the course of justice. However, there are many reasons why a member of clergy may not be in public ministry, for example; ill health, a period of sabbatical or further studies. It should not therefore be assumed that an allegation has been reported.

Will we be told when a member of clergy is removed from ministry due to an allegation being reported?

We are not able to make public statements about any allegations until we have permission to do so from the statutory authorities. This ensures that investigations and any future procedures are not prejudiced. We must also consider the views of both the person who has made the allegation and the person who is under investigation who has rights that must also be protected.

What can the Diocese say when someone is charged by the police?

We are only able to let people know what the police permit us to. This may be frustrating, because the details may be brief or incomplete, but it is important that the judicial process to determine guilt or innocence, which may take some time, is not in any way compromised. We are also mindful that fuelling speculation with lots of information and detail may prove distressing both for the reporting party and for the person being accused.



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