

Diocesan Safeguarding Advisors Regulations 2016

In exercise of the power under paragraph 1(2) of Canon C 30, the House of Bishops makes these Regulations:

Citation, commencement and interpretation

1. (1) These Regulations may be cited as the Diocesan Safeguarding Advisors Regulations 2016.
- (2) These Regulations come into force on 1st January 2017.
- (3) In these Regulations, “safeguarding matters” means matters relating to the safeguarding of children or vulnerable adults.
- (4) The Interpretation Act 1978 applies to these Regulations as if the Canon under which they are made were a Measure of the General Synod of the Church of England.

Requirement to have regard to House of Bishops’ guidance

2. In exercising a function under these Regulations, a person must have due regard to the guidance issued by the House of Bishops on safeguarding matters.

Appointment

3. (1) When appointing a person as diocesan safeguarding advisor, or otherwise to advise on safeguarding matters in the diocese, the bishop must be satisfied that the person has the appropriate qualifications and experience.
- (2) Before making the appointment, the bishop must consult the Archbishops’ Council.

Functions of diocesan safeguarding advisors

4. (1) A diocesan safeguarding advisor has responsibility for ensuring that the following action is taken within the diocese (whether by him or her or by a person acting on his or her behalf)—
 - (a) where an allegation that a child or vulnerable adult has suffered abuse is made against a bishop or other church officer in the diocese or against any other person, advising on whether the allegation should be referred to the police for investigation and, if the advisor thinks it should be referred, making the referral;
 - (b) co-operating with, and supporting the work of, the police, local authorities and other bodies in cases in which it is suspected that a child or vulnerable adult has suffered abuse or is at risk of suffering abuse;
 - (c) giving advice, information and support in a timely fashion to those who have suffered abuse;

- (d) giving advice to the bishop and other church officers in the diocese on safeguarding matters;
- (e) co-ordinating the work of the diocesan safeguarding panel;
- (f) providing, or co-ordinating the provision of, training on safeguarding matters;
- (g) implementing, or co-ordinating the implementation of, the guidance issued by the House of Bishops on safeguarding matters;
- (h) giving advice, information and support to parochial church councils and parish safeguarding officers on the implementation of that guidance and, where appropriate, challenging parochial church councils and parish safeguarding officers on what they have done to implement that guidance;
- (i) issuing guidance on safeguarding matters for church officers in the diocese and parish safeguarding officers in any parish in the diocese that is consistent with the guidance issued by the House of Bishops;
- (j) where the advisor thinks that safeguarding matters are not being dealt with properly and it has not proved possible to resolve within the diocese the points at issue, informing the Archbishops' Council;
- (k) where a clergy risk assessment is required to be carried out, making the arrangements for it to be carried out;
- (l) where a non-clergy risk assessment is required to be carried out, either carrying out the assessment or making the arrangements for it to be carried out;
- (m) giving advice to the bishop and other church officers in the diocese on the conduct of a clergy or non-clergy risk assessment and, where such an assessment has been carried out, advising on the steps to take in light of it and monitoring any such steps as are then taken;
- (n) promoting good practice on safeguarding matters;
- (o) taking such other action in connection with safeguarding matters as the advisor considers necessary or appropriate.

(2) In this regulation—

“abuse” includes violence, neglect, exploitation and any other form of ill-treatment, whether physical or not;

“church officer”, in relation to a diocese, means a person who exercises ministry in the diocese or is appointed or elected to an office or role in the diocese, whether clerical or lay and whether paid or unpaid;

“clergy risk assessment” has the same meaning as “risk assessment” in Canon C 30,

“diocesan safeguarding panel” means the persons appointed to give the bishop of the diocese advice on and assistance with the development and implementation within the diocese of its policies on safeguarding matters;

“non-clergy risk assessment” means an assessment of whether there is a significant risk that a person who is not an archbishop, bishop, priest or deacon may—

- (a) harm a child or vulnerable adult,

- (b) cause a child or vulnerable adult to be harmed,
- (c) put a child or vulnerable adult at risk of harm,
- (d) attempt to harm a child or vulnerable adult, or
- (e) incite another person to harm a child or vulnerable adult;

“parish safeguarding officer”, in relation to a parish, means a person appointed by the parochial church council to provide advice to it on safeguarding matters within the parish.

Professional support and development

5. (1) The bishop of a diocese must make arrangements for ensuring that any person appointed as diocesan safeguarding advisor receives professional supervision at an appropriate level from a person with experience of work that is concerned with the safeguarding of children or vulnerable adults.
- (2) The bishop of a diocese must make arrangements for ensuring that a person appointed as diocesan safeguarding advisor has sufficient time to undertake continuing professional development in safeguarding matters.