

## WHAT FORM DOES ADULT ABUSE TAKE?



### 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.

### 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.

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Withdrawn, too eager to do everything they are asked, not being able to do things they used to do, worrying people will be angry with them about minor things,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

### 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.

### 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.

### 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.

### 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.

### 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

### 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.

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, you can talk it through with

Director of Safeguarding or your local HSE Safeguarding & Protection Team

## 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
- ♦ 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 directly to the Local HSE Safeguarding & Protection Team. Or if related to church personnel discuss with the Director of Safeguarding

### 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.

**Contact details for the Dioceses**

Director of Safeguarding.

Ms Cleo Yates. Mob 087 3553024

[safeguarding@corkandross.org](mailto:safeguarding@corkandross.org)

**Local HSE Safeguarding & Protection Teams Contact Details**

Kerry & Cork Tel: 021 4927550. [Safeguarding.cho4@hse.ie](mailto:Safeguarding.cho4@hse.ie)

HSE Information line:

Monday -Saturday 8.00am-8.00pm Tel: 1800 700700

[info@hse.ie](mailto:info@hse.ie)



# Safeguarding Adults at Risk of Abuse

Inspired by gospel values, the commitment of Pope Francis, and in compliance with law we will strive to ensure the participation and welfare of all adults who may be vulnerable in the life of the Church.

We are committed to fostering a safeguarding culture characterised by empowerment, collaboration and zero tolerance of abuse. (Adult Safeguarding Policy 2020)

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

If you suspect abuse, it is important that you report it to Safeguarding & Protection Teams either directly or through the Director of Safeguarding

**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.