

Glossary of Terms Schedule

1. Purpose

To provide a glossary of terms used in relation to the safeguarding of children and adults-at-risk.

2. Scope

This schedule must be read in conjunction with the Safeguarding Policy and is subordinate to it.

3. Schedule

3.1. Glossary

Term	Definition
Abuse	A violation of a person's human or civil rights by another person or persons. Abuse may consist of a single act or repeated acts. It may be physical, verbal or psychological; it may be an act of neglect or an omission. Different types of abuse are: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Physical;• Emotional/Psychological;• Domestic or family violence• Neglect;• Cultural;• Sexual; and• Spiritual.
Adult-at-risk	A person aged 18 or over, who may be in need of community services due to age, illness or a mental or physical disability or who may be unable to take care of him/herself or protect him/herself against significant harm or exploitation.
Assistant Priest	A collaborator in the work of administering the parish, appointed by the Bishop. He does not have the authority of a Parish Priest.
Child	A person who has not yet had their 18 th birthday.
Child Abuse	Action, behaviours or inaction by an adult towards a child or young person that harms or endangers the child. Child abuse can be a single incident, or can be a number of different incidents that take place over time.
Church Personnel	Any clergy, member of a religious institute or other persons who are employed by the Church body, or appointed by a Church body to voluntary positions who engage in any form of pastoral care.
Church Worker	Either a paid employee or volunteer, not clergy. Gospel Values are the values of love, dignity and justice as demonstrated by Jesus that underpin the Safeguarding Policy. Jesus especially showed care for the poor, powerless and vulnerable. He particularly loved children in their purity and innocence - ... 'for it is to such as these that the Kingdom of God belongs' (Mark 10:14). All people are called to cherish and safeguard children, young people and adults-at-risk from anyone who may harm them.

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Term	Definition
Cultural Abuse	Can be an outcome of discrimination and harassment and it can take different forms including emotional, psychological or social abuse. It may be evident through prejudice in what is said, dislike of a person based on their culture or background, discrimination in activities by not providing the opportunity to contribute equally, bullying of a person based on culture, beliefs or values or unreasonable verbal abuse using offensive cultural language.
Domestic Violence	<p>Defined in s.8(1) of the Domestic and Family Violence Protection Act 2012. S.8(1), which states that domestic violence means behaviour by one person towards another person with whom there is a relevant relationship, that is physically or sexually abusive, emotionally or psychologically abusive, economically abusive, is threatening, is coercive, or in any other way seeks to control or dominate the person aggrieved and which causes that person to fear for their safety or wellbeing or that of someone else. It is usually an ongoing pattern of behaviour aimed at controlling a partner through fear. The Domestic and Family Violence Protection Act 2012. in S.8(2) of the Act refers to the following as examples of what DV includes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Causing personal injury to a person or threatening to do so; • Coercing a person to engage in sexual activity or attempting to do so; • Damaging a person's property or threatening to do so; • Depriving a person of the person's liberty or threatening to do so; • Threatening a person with the death or injury of the person, a child of the person, or someone else; • Threatening to commit suicide or self-harm so as to torment, intimidate or frighten the person to whom the behaviour is directed; • Causing or threatening to cause the death of, or injury to, an animal, whether or not the animal belongs to the person to whom the behaviour is directed, so as to control, dominate or coerce the person; • Unauthorised surveillance of a person; • Unlawfully stalking a person.
Emotional/Psychological Abuse	Includes threats of harm or abandonment, deprivation of contact, humiliation, blaming, controlling, intimidation, coercion, harassment, verbal abuse, isolation or withdrawal from services or supportive networks or denial of cultural or religious needs and preferences. This may include seeing or hearing violence and aggression between others (which may be family violence see below) and bullying.
Exploitation	Taking advantage of the vulnerability of a person in order to use them or their resources for another's profit or advantage (for example, this would include financial abuse).

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Term	Definition
Grooming	Involves deliberate actions by which an offender befriends and establishes an emotional connection with a Child, Young Person or Adult-at-risk to lower their inhibitions to sexually abuse the person. The relationship is usually maintained in secrecy.
Harm	Any detrimental effect of a significant nature on a person's physical, psychological or emotional wellbeing (section 9 of the Child Protection Act 1999). For harm to be significant, the detrimental effect on a person's wellbeing must be substantial or serious, more than transitory and must be demonstrable in the person's presentation, functioning or behaviour. It is immaterial how the harm is caused. Harm can be caused by physical, psychological or emotional abuse or neglect, or sexual abuse or exploitation. It may be caused by a single act, omission or circumstance, or a series or combination of acts, omissions or circumstances.
Neglect	The failure to provide the necessary care (in any area including food, clothing and shelter), aid or guidance to dependent children or adults by those responsible for their care. Neglect may be physical, emotional, educational, environmental, medical or systemic.
Parish Administrator	Takes the place of the Parish Priest and is bound by the same obligations as the Parish Priest, unless prescribed differently by the Bishop.
Parish Priest or Pastor	For the purposes of this policy, the proper pastor of the parish entrusted to him. He is accountable to the Bishop for pastoral and liturgical guidance and to the parish for the management of the parish's temporal goods.
Physical Abuse	Any non-accidental physical injury or injuries to a child or adult, such as inflicting pain of any sort or causing bruises, fractures, burns, electric shock or unpleasant sensation (for example taste, heat or cold).
Retired Priest	Considered similar to the Assistant Priest.
Risk	Anything that can cause harm or loss to a child or adult at risk.
Self-harm	The deliberate and voluntary physical self-injury (that is not life-threatening and is without any conscious suicidal intent) to cope with strong feelings such as anger, despair or self-hatred. It may be by direct means including cutting and burning, but could also be by engaging in serious risk-taking behaviours such as alcohol/substance abuse, recklessly dangerous physical activities and/or unsafe promiscuity. (NB: Some cases of self-harm may be an indication of sexual abuse.)
Sexting	The act of sending sexually explicit photographs or messages electronically.

Term	Definition
Sexual Abuse (of a Child)	Occurs when an adult, stronger child or adolescent uses their power or authority to involve a child in sexual activity. Sexual abuse can be physical, verbal or emotional and can include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Kissing or holding a child in a sexual manner; • Exposing a sexual body part to a child; • Having sexual relations with a child under 16 years of age; • Talking in a sexually explicit way that is not age or developmentally appropriate; • Making obscene phone calls or remarks to a child; • Sending obscene messages by mobile text messages (sexting), social media or emails to a child; • Fondling a child in a sexual manner; • Persistently intruding on a child's privacy; • Penetrating the child's vagina or anus by penis, finger or any other object; • Oral sex or incest; • Showing pornographic films, magazines or photographs to a child; • Having a child pose or perform in a sexual manner; • Forcing a child to watch a sexual act; and • Involving a child in prostitution.
Sexual Abuse (of an Adult-at-risk)	Includes sexual assaults or sexual acts to which the adult-at-risk has not consented or could not consent or was pressured into consenting. It is important to recognise, however, that any adult can be subject to abuse and that they do not have to be defined as 'at-risk'. Any adult could be subjected to abuse, including domestic, financial, physical, emotional and sexual abuse. Within the Church context, it is important to recognise, therefore, that abuse can be perpetrated against adults who are not 'at-risk'.
Spiritual Abuse	Results from any act or omission that undermines a person's relationship with God, the Catholic Church and/or the community. When abuse is perpetrated by an individual in a position of authority and trust within the church (clergy, members of religious institutes, Diocesan workers or volunteers), such abuse can cause a child or adult at risk to have lifelong loss of faith and/or feel distance from the church. Additionally, spiritual abuse can result in health problems, psychological illness, problems with accepting authority and having trusting relationships.
Young Person	An older Child.

4. Schedule Information

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Review Date	26/10/2025
Relevant Legislation	
Related Policies	Safeguarding Policy
Related Procedures	
Related forms, publications and websites	
Definitions	

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