Mission Statement

Daughters of Charity live their commitment to God in a way that expresses the values of the Gospel through service to people in need and through working for a more just society.

In the spirit of their founders St. Vincent de Paul and St. Louise de Marillac they strive to make a difference in the world of people who are poor, disadvantaged or discriminated against.

In partnership with others who share the same values they promote the human dignity, equality and acceptance of each person, respecting the richness and diversity of peoples' lives.

Together they provide comprehensive, caring and collaborative services in a transparent and responsible way.

Index

Background	3
Updating 1998 Child Protection Policy	3
Best Practice in Working with Children Young People and Vulnerable Adults	4
Definition of Child Abuse	6
Delegate Person, Deputy Delegate, Media	7
Role of Delegate Person	8
The Purpose of the Policy and Procedures	9
Policy	. 11
Procedures	. 13
Appendix One – Definition of "Abuse" .	18
Appendix Two – Key Legislative Provisions	. 21
Appendix Three – Recommended Supervision Ratios	. 22
Appendix Four – Sample Application Form for Volunteers	. 23
Appendix Five – Sample Declaration Form to be Completed by Staff and Volunteers	. 24
Appendix Six – Standard Form for Reporting Child Protection and /or Child Welfare Concerns	. 25
Appendix Seven – Role and Responsibility of a Designated Officer	. 27
Appendix Eight – List of Health Service Executive Area Social Work Contact Details	. 29

Child Protection Policy and Procedures of the Daughters of Charity

Background

Historically, the Daughters of Charity operated a number of residential homes, orphanages and residential services for persons with intellectual and physical disabilities. The number of children and vulnerable adults who have passed through these services over the years is considerable.

Recognising that complaints of abuse may arise in relation to alleged incidents both in the past and more currently, the Daughters of Charity regarded it as appropriate and desirable that policy and procedures for dealing with any such complaints be developed. Accordingly a Child Protection Policy for dealing with complaints of abuse was provided in 1998.

Updating of 1998 Child Protection Policy

Three key factors have informed the Daughters of Charity to update this 1998 Child Protection Policy:

- An increased awareness in society in general of the reality of child abuse, including abuse within organisational or institutional settings.
- Protection and Welfare of Children", September 1999, Department of Health and Children. The National Guidelines stipulate that every voluntary organisation providing services for children and young people is obliged to develop its own internal child protection policy, procedures and practices. In addition the Department of Health and Children also published "Our Duty to Care" the principles of good practice for the protection of children and young

people, which is aimed at community and voluntary organisations of any size or type that provide services for children.

• The Production of "Our Children, Our Church", published in 2005. The guidelines in "Our Children, Our Church" are based on the civil guidelines of the two jurisdictions, Northern Ireland and the Republic of Ireland.

For the purposes of this updated Child Protection Policy, a child is defined as any young person under the age of eighteen years.

Best Practice in Working with Children, Young People and Vulnerable Adults

The Daughters of Charity recognise that there is a clear moral and legal responsibility on the part of all sisters, staff and volunteers working in any of their Services to ensure the fundamental right of every child, young person and vulnerable adult participating in these Services to a safe environment in which he/she will be protected, and free from any form of harm, abuse or neglect. This right is enshrined in Gospel values, in international law and in domestic law. Arising from this the Daughters of Charity have adopted a comprehensive set of Child Protection Policies and Procedures in their various services.

This document, "Child Protection Policy and Procedures of the Daughters of Charity" is provided mainly for services which do not have their own particular Policy and Procedures. It has as its over-riding concern the safety and welfare of all children, young people and vulnerable adults who are involved in any way in services, institutions and activities of the Daughters of Charity. This document includes procedures for best practice for the prevention of child abuse and for an appropriate response where abuse is alleged or suspected.

The participation of children, young people and vulnerable adults in the life of the Church spans a wide range of activities and levels of engagement. In the various Services provided by the Daughters of Charity many of which are operated in partnership with the Department of Health and Children, the Health Service Executive and the Department of Education and Science, their involvement includes participation in educational resource initiatives, liturgy groups, retreats, choirs, altar serving, membership of youth clubs, social activities, work with travellers as well as in the larger services to persons with Intellectual Disability, Children and Families, St. Vincent's Trust and Schools. It is important to reassure children, young people and vulnerable adults that their safety and well being is a paramount consideration in all activities.

Likewise, parents and guardians need to be reassured that all steps have been taken to ensure best practice in relation to the care of their children.

Any group visiting a Daughters of Charity setting, including visiting groups or individuals, should be made aware of the policies and procedures for child protection in operation and should be asked to confirm that they will implement these policies and procedures.

Each Daughters of Charity Service has a Code of Behaviour for Personnel.

All members of the Daughters of Charity and those who work with them are provided with training and updating on all Child Protection Policies and Procedures

A Child Protection Clearance Form is completed by the Provincial Leader of any Daughter of Charity from another country, who comes to work in Ireland.

Definition of Child Abuse

Child abuse is generally categorised into four broad groups: neglect, emotional abuse, physical abuse and sexual abuse. Children may be abused in a range of settings, by those known to them, or, more rarely, by a stranger.

A child may be subject to more than one form of abuse at any time during his or her childhood. Vulnerable children – for example those with disabilities, children who are separated from family and are reliant on others for their care and protection, and homeless children – are recognised to be at particular risk of being abused.

All forms of abuse constitute a betrayal of trust and an abuse of power by an adult over a child or young person.

Each form of child abuse must be treated seriously – there can be no assumption that some forms are of less significance than others. It is accepted, however that there is a distinction between sexual abuse and the other ways in which children can be harmed in that the motivation and circumstances for the sexual abuse of children can be very different from those which are involved when people physically or emotionally abuse children, or cause them to be neglected.

Delegate Person, Deputy Delegate, Media

The Provincial Council of the Daughters of Charity has:

- a) nominated a Delegate Person and deputy Delegate and arranged for them to be trained appropriately.
- b) agreed that the Delegate and the deputy Delegate should continue to have recourse to an Advisory Panel.
- c) agreed Sr. Frances Molloy and Mr. Walter Young, continue to deal with media queries concerning complaints of abuse.

Delegate

Sr Goretti Butler 6 Belvedere Road Dublin 1

Tel: 01 855 6719

Deputy Delegate

Sr Breege Keenan 16 Dalymount Phibsborough, Dublin 7

Tel: 01 868 0308

Media queries can be directed to either:

Sr. Frances Molloy St. Catherine's Provincial House Dunardagh Blackrock, Co Dublin

Tel: 01 288 2669 Fax: 01 283 4485 Mobile: 087 223 6513 Mr Wally Young Young Communications 21 Waterloo Road Dublin 4

Tel: 01 668 0530 Fax: 01 668 0535

Role of Delegate Person

The role of the Delegate Person will be:

- 1. To ensure that basic level training in child protection is provided for all sisters, staff and volunteers working within Daughters of Charity Services. Where possible, training should include a multi-disciplinary and inter-agency approach.
- 2. To provide information and advice on child protection within the Daughters of Charity and their Services.
- 3. To receive and consider all child protection concerns within the Daughters of Charity, and where appropriate within their Services, and ensure that policy and procedures are followed.
- 4. Where there is uncertainty, to consult with the local Health Service Executive to establish if the concern is serious.
- 5. If appropriate, to inform parents/carers if a referral is being made to the Health Service Executive and/ or the Gardai.
- 6. To make a formal referral to the Health Service Executive or/and the Gardai if appropriate.
- 7. To maintain appropriate records in line with the policy on confidentiality of the Daughters of Charity and their Services.
- 8. To inform parents/carers if a report is to be submitted to the Health Service Executive.

The Purpose of the Policy and Procedures

Many Services under the auspices of the Daughters of Charity, and Services in which Daughters of Charity work have their own Child Protection Policies and Procedures. The purpose of this document on Child Protection Policy and Procedures is to provide sisters, staff and volunteers who are involved in Services other than those which have their own Child Protection Policies, with procedures for best practice for the prevention of child abuse and for an appropriate response where abuse is alleged or suspected. The Policy and Procedures are based on the key principle that the best interests of the child, young person or vulnerable adult are paramount at all times.

It is recognised that a suspected or alleged incident of abuse involving a child, young person or vulnerable adult can be very difficult, even traumatic, for all parties concerned. The Policy and Procedures, in providing an explicit statement of policy, procedures and practices aim to ensure that no child, young person, vulnerable adult, or staff member to whom a disclosure of abuse is made, is left alone to address the problem.

The Policy and Procedures also recognise that an effective response to a suspected or alleged incident of abuse is dependent on a partnership approach, involving the Daughters of Charity, the child, young person or vulnerable adult who is making the complaint, his/her family or carers, the relevant statutory authorities with legal responsibility for child protection, namely the Area Health Service Executives and the Gardai.

It is important to remember that, while the Policy and Procedures provide necessary advice on important aspects of Child Protection, they do not, and cannot aim to cover every eventuality and circumstance that may occur in any given incident of suspected abuse. Therefore, in some instances the best judgement and experience of sisters, staff or volunteers will also be relied on.

A sister, staff member or volunteer to whom a disclosure of abuse has been made should inform the Delegate. At no time should a sister, staff member or volunteer attempt to handle such a disclosure on his/her own.

Persons who have experienced abuse may not feel capable of revealing it until well into adult life. Because of the hurt, confusion and anger that such persons may feel, it is essential that complaints of abuse be received and handled sensitively and in a consistent way. Not every person is suited to handling the examination of such complaints and therefore the choice of the individual or individuals to do so is important, as is the training that such individuals receive.

However, each and every member of the Daughters of Charity and each member of staff and each volunteer in the Daughters of Charity Services must share the responsibility for ensuring that persons in the care of the Daughters of Charity and their Services are protected from abuse and that abusers are identified and the abuse stopped.

As the opportunities for abuse can arise in a myriad of circumstances, it is vital that there is general familiarity with the manner in which an abuse situation where revealed or suspected, is dealt with.

Policy

- 1. When an allegation or suspicion of child abuse arises against a sister, the Daughters of Charity hold a dual responsibility:
 - I. The safeguarding of children: This at all times takes priority. The Daughters of Charity will ensure that all appropriate Procedures are followed in relation to reporting the matter to the civil authorities and to safeguarding children from abuse.
 - II. Dealing with the person accused: The Provincial will ensure that proper procedures are followed in relation to the person against whom the complaint has been made, in line with fair procedures and natural justice. The accused person is to be treated as innocent unless and until the contrary is established.
- 2. The Daughters of Charity have a responsibility to protect from abuse¹ persons in their care, namely, children² young people and vulnerable adults
- 3. The Daughters of Charity have a responsibility to respond promptly and appropriately to complaints of abuse.
- 4. The Daughters of Charity have a responsibility to report to the civil authorities³, each formal complaint of abuse received and the Daughters of Charity will encourage each complainant to do likewise.
- 5. a) The Daughters of Charity have a responsibility to offer emotional and spiritual support to the complainant.
 - b) The Daughters of Charity also have a responsibility to have regard to the rights and the spiritual and emotional well-being of the person

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¹ See Appendix One.

² Persons up to 18 years of age.

³ The relevant Health Service Executive and the Gardai.

who has been accused of abuse and to uphold and respect the presumption of innocence of that person unless and until the contrary has been established.

- 6. As the handling of the examination of complaints of abuse is difficult and requires both special training and great sensitivity, the Daughters of Charity have appointed a Delegate and a deputy Delegate to be responsible for the process.
- 7. Each member of the Daughters of Charity and each staff member and volunteer of the Daughters of Charity Services who become aware of a complaint of abuse must be conscious of the need for confidentiality and should *only* discuss the complaint with the Delegate or the deputy Delegate.
- 8. a) The Delegate or the deputy Delegate appointed by the Daughters of Charity has the responsibility for handling the examination of all complaints of abuse received by the Daughters of Charity.
 - b) The Delegate or the deputy Delegate will handle the examination of complaints of abuse in accordance with Policy which they will establish on the basis of best professional practice, as advised to them, as developed from time to time, having regard to their own practical experience.
 - c) The Delegate or the deputy Delegate will be available to meet with any member of the Daughters of Charity or any member of the staff or volunteers of the Daughters of Charity Services or other person who has suspicions, information or concerns in relation to possible abuse.

Procedures

- 1. Read and be familiar with the Policy and Procedures.
- 2. Know the identity of the individuals who are the Delegate and the deputy Delegate appointed by the Provincial Council of the Daughters of Charity to handle the examination of complaints of abuse and how they can be contacted.¹
- 3. A person receiving a complaint from an adult on their own behalf or on behalf of a suspected abuse victim should:
 - Listen carefully to the complaint. Take what he/she says seriously. Give the young person/adult time to speak about the disclosure at his/her pace.
 - Be as calm and natural as possible. Remember that you have been approached because you are trusted and/or liked not because you are an expert or counsellor.
 - Be aware that the disclosure is very difficult for the young person/adult involved.
 - Remember that initially a young person may be testing your reactions and may only fully open up over a period of time.
 - Do not question the young person or adult directly about intimate details of the abuse or seek to interpret for the person this could later complicate the official investigation; avoid leading questions; do not make the young person/adult repeat the story unnecessarily.
 - Do not promise the young person/adult that you will keep secret what has been revealed.
 - Offer him/her reassurance that they have done the right thing in talking to you and tell him/her that you are willing to give help and

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¹ See page 7.

support. Reassure the person that your relationship towards him/her have not been affected in a negative way as a result of what has been disclosed.

- Explain what will happen next and seek their consent to this, if possible. Tell the young person that you will keep him/her informed of anything that you will do based on what you have been told
- Try not to become over-involved with the person, lest you become part of the problem rather than the solution.
- Take in writing the name, address and telephone number of the person making the complaint.
- Explain the Procedures and particularly the Daughters of Charity policy on reporting complaints of abuse to the civil authorities¹.
- Explain that the Daughters of Charity have a Delegate specifically trained to handle the examination of complaints of abuse and offer to accompany the complainant to the Delegate.
- Make a careful written record of what the complainant has said and give this to the Delegate.
- Do not express a personal opinion to the complainant relating to the complaint being made.
- Parents or guardians should be informed unless to do so would put the child at further risk.
- 4. A person receiving a complaint of abuse directly from a child should:
 - Take what the child says seriously.

¹ The relevant Health Service Executive and the Gardai.

- Listen carefully to the child and, while not asking leading questions, check that an accurate understanding of what the child has said has been noted.
- Take accurate written information name, address, telephone number and account of what is said by the child, in the words of the child.
- While reassuring the child, make no promises which cannot be kept.
- Accompany the child to his or her parent(s) or guardian(s) to inform them of exactly what the child has said, *unless* the child's complaint is against a parent or guardian.
- Explain to the parent(s) or guardian(s) the Procedures and particularly the Daughters of Charity policy on reporting complaints of abuse to the civil authorities.
- Inform the Delegate of what has occurred and provide to the Delegate a careful written record of what the child has said together with the views expressed by the child's parent(s) or guardian(s).
- Do not express a personal opinion to the child or the child's parent(s) or guardian(s) relating to the complaint being made.
- 5. Once the Delegate has received details of the complaint, the Daughters of Charity response to the complaint and its examination will be coordinated by the Delegate. Where a member of the Daughters of Charity, a staff member with the Daughters of Charity or a volunteer working with the Daughters of Charity is made aware in advance that the purpose of a meeting with an adult or child is in relation to a complaint of abuse, it may be appropriate to ensure that the Delegate attends the meeting in order to handle the situation from the outset.

- 6. Once the Delegate takes over co-ordination of the examination, any enquiries and information received by any sister, staff member or volunteer of the Daughters of Charity concerning the particular complaint should immediately be directed to the Delegate.
- 7. Any information received by the Daughters of Charity in relation to a complaint of abuse must be treated in confidence during the process of examination in order to respect the rights of both the suspected abused person and the alleged abuser. However, because of the Daughters of Charity policy on reporting such complaints to the civil authorities, no absolute guarantee of confidentiality should be given.
- 8. Where a person has reason to be suspicious, or has received information anonymously, that there has been abuse, such suspicions or information should immediately be passed to the Delegate.
- 9. In some situations, staff and volunteers may receive information that adults who are not involved with the Daughters of Charity Services, but whom they believe may present a risk, are in contact with children through other organisations. The matter should be reported by the staff member or volunteer to the Delegate/Designated Person who should seek advice from the area Health Service Executive as to how this information should be best communicated
- 10. It is important that everyone in the Daughters of Charity and its Services know that if he/she in good faith, raises a concern which through the process of investigation, is not validated, they continue to be supported in their initial action. The Daughters of Charity encourage responsible action and are committed to supporting a sister, staff member/volunteer who has received a disclosure by a child, young person or vulnerable adult.

APPENDIX ONE

Definition of "Abuse", whether sexual or non-sexual

Child abuse is generally categorised into four broad groups: neglect, emotional abuse, physical abuse and sexual abuse. Children may be abused in a range of settings, by those known to them, or, more rarely, by a stranger.

A child may be subject to more than one form of abuse at any time during his or her childhood. Vulnerable children – for example those with disabilities, children who are separated from family and are reliant on others for their care and protection, and homeless children – are recognised to be at particular risk of being abused.

All form of abuse constitutes a betrayal of trust and an abuse of power by an adult over a child or young person.

Each form of child abuse must be treated seriously – there can be no assumption that some forms are of less significance than others. It is accepted, however that there is a distinction between sexual abuse and the other ways in which children can be harmed in that the motivation and circumstances for the sexual abuse of children can be very different from those which are involved when people physically or emotionally abuse children, or cause them to be neglected.

Forms of Child Abuse

(a) Neglect

Neglect can be defined in terms of an omission, where the child suffers significant harm or impairment of development by being deprived of food, clothing, warmth, hygiene, intellectual stimulation, supervision and safety, attachment to and affection from adults, medical care. Neglect generally becomes apparent in different ways over a period of time rather than at one specific point. It is the persistent failure to meet a child's physical, emotional and/or psychological needs that is likely to result in significant harm.

Indications of neglect include:

- * where a child suffers a series of minor injuries as a result of not being properly supervised or protected
- * the consistent failure of a child to gain weight or height may indicate that they are being deprived of adequate nutrition
- * where a child consistently misses school, this may be due to bullying or deprivation of intellectual stimulation and support.

(b) Emotional Abuse

Emotional abuse is the persistent emotional ill-treatment of a child such as to cause severe and persistent adverse effects on the child's emotional development. Emotional abuse is normally found in the relationship between a care-giver and a child rather than in a specific event or pattern of events. It occurs when a child's need for affection, approval, consistency and security is not met. Unless other forms of abuse are present, it is rarely manifested in terms of physical signs or symptoms.

(c) Physical Abuse

Physical abuse is any form of non-accidental injury, or injury which results from wilful or neglectful failure to protect a child. Examples of physical injury include the following:

- * shaking a child
- * using excessive force in handling
- * deliberate poisoning
- * suffocation
- * allowing or creating a substantial risk of significant harm to a child.

(d) Sexual Abuse

Sexual abuse occurs when a child is used by another person for his or her gratification or sexual arousal, or for that of others. Any form of sexual

behaviour initiated by an adult with a child or young person is sexual abuse, and is both immoral and criminal.

There may also be indirect sexual abuse of children, for instance, where children have been photographed, videotaped or filmed for pornographic purposes. Indirect abuse also includes the subjecting of children to gross and obscene language or indecent images. The use or possession of child pornography in any form is illegal.

(e) Peer Abuse

In some instances of child abuse, the alleged abuser may be another child or young person. In such situations, there are important child protection issues in relation to both children, and the needs of each should be considered separately.

APPENDIX TWO

KEY LEGISLATIVE PROVISIONS

Republic of Ireland

The Child Care Act, 1991

Domestic Violence Act, 1996

The Non-fatal Offences Against the Person Act, 1997 freedom of Information Act, 1997

Protections for Persons Reporting Child Abuse Act, 1998

Data Protection Act, 1988 and Data Protection (Amendment) Act, 2003 The Education Act, 1998

Education (Welfare) Act, 2000 Health Act, 2004

Northern Ireland

The Children (Northern Ireland) Order, 1995

The Children's Evidence (Northern Ireland) Order, 1995 Data Protection Act, 1998

Family Homes and Domestic Violence (Northern Ireland) Order, 1998 Human Rights Act, 1998

The Public Interest Disclosure Order, 1998

APPENDIX THREE

RECOMMENDED SUPERVISION RATIOS

In the Republic of Ireland, the Childcare (Pre-School Services) Regulations, 1996 and Child Care (Pre-school Services) (Amendment) Regulations, 1997 have the following requirements for adult: child ratios: (1)

Service	Age	Adult: child Ratio
Full Day Care	0-1 year	1:3
	1-3 years	1:6
	3-6 years	1.8
Sessional	0-6 years	1:10
Drop-in Centre	1-6 years	1:8
-	Under 12 months	1.3

The Code of *Practice- Child Protection* for *the Youth Work Sector* recommends the following:

The minimum adult: young person ratio should ideally be one adult per group of eight plus one other adult, and allowing an additional adult for each group of eight thereafter. Local circumstances, the ages of the children, the experience of the volunteers and the staff should be taken into consideration. Safety, ability/disability of young people and the nature of the activities being undertaken may require that these ratios be considerably lower. (2)

In Northern Ireland, *Our Duty to Care: Principles* of *Good Practice for the Protection of Children and Young People* recommends the following ratios:

Age	Staff : Child Ratio
0-2 years	1 member of staff to 3 children
2-3 years	1 member of staff to 4 children
3- 7 years	1 member of staff to 8 children
8 years and over	2 members of staff (preferably one of each gender)
	for up to 20 children

There should be one additional staff member for every 10 extra children. The ratio of staff and volunteers to children with disabilities is dependent on the needs of the individual child. (3)

⁽¹⁾ Department of Health and Children, Child Care (Pre-School Services) Regulations 1996 and Child Care (Pre-School Services) (Amendment) Regulations, 1997 and Explanatory Guide to Requirements and Procedures/or Notification and Inspection, Dublin: Stationery Office 1998, pp 32-3.

⁽²⁾ Department of Education and Science, Code of Good Practice -Child Protection/or the Youth Work Sector, 2nd edition, Dublin: Stationery Office, 2003, p. 13.

⁽³⁾ Our Duty to Care: Principles of Good Practice / or the Protection of Children and Young People, Information Pack, Belfast Volunteer Development Agency 2000, Action Checklist 6.

APPENDIX FOUR

SAMPLE APPLICATION FORM FOR VOLUNTEERS*

Confidential

Surname

Forename

Address

Date of Birth Tel.

Are you (Please tick)

Employed Unemployed Student

Homemaker Retired Other

Previous work experience:

Have you previously been involved in voluntary work? Yes No If yes, give details:

How much time can you commit to voluntary work? (Please tick)

Mon Tues Wed Thu Fri Sat Sun

Morning Afternoon Evening

Do you have any spare time hobbies, interests or activities?

Any other relevant information?

Please provide the names and addresses of two people whom we could contact for a reference (not relatives):

Name Name
Address
Tel. Tel.
Signed Date

Other information which might be sought on the application form

- * Can you drive? Do you have access to a car?
- * How did you learn about this volunteering opportunity?
- * Why do you want to do voluntary work?
- * Have you any disability which would affect your voluntary work?
- * Have you ever committed a criminal offence?
 - From: Department of Health and Children, *Our Duty to Care: the Principles* of *Good Practice for the Protection of Children and Young People*, Dublin: Stationery Office, 2001, pp 41-2.

APPENDIX FIVE

SAMPLE DECLARATION FORM TO BE COMPLETED BY STAFF AND VOLUNTEERS *

STAFF AND VOLUNTEERS			
Confidential Declaration from all staff and volunteers people	working with children and young		
Surname			
Forename Address Tel.			
Date of birth	Place of birth		
Any other name previously known as			
Do you have any prosecutions pending or have you ever been convicted of a criminal offence or been the subject of a caution or of a bind over order? Yes No			
If yes, please state below the nature and date(s) of the offence(s), the court responsible for dealing with the matter, the approximate date of the court hearing.			
Nature of offence	Date of offence		
Signed	Date		

^{*} Adapted from; Our Duty to Care: Principles of Good Practice for the Protection of Children and Young People, Information Pack, Belfast: Volunteer Development Agency, 2000.

APPENDIX SIX

STANDARD FORM FOR REPORTING CHILD PROTECTION AND/OR CHILD WELFARE CONCERNS

Private and Confidential

In case of Emergency or outside Health Service Executive hours contact should be made with the Gardai

A. To Principal Social Worker/Designate: [This will be printed as relevant to each Community Care Area]

1. Details of Child

Name: Male: Female:

Address: Age/D.O.B.:

School:

1a. Name of Mother:Name of Father:Address of motherAddress of Fatherif different to child:if different to child:

Tel. No.: Tel. No.:

1b. Care and Custody arrangements regarding child, if known:

1c. Household Composition

Name Relationship Date of Birth Additional Information e.g. to Child School/Occupation

2. Details of concern (s), allegation(s) or incident(s), dates, times, who was present, description of any observed injuries, parent's view(s), child's view(s), if known

^{*} Note: A separate Report Form must be completed in respect of each child being reported.

3. Details of person (s) allegedly cau	sing concern in relation to the child:		
Name: Age	: Male Female		
Address:			
Relationship to Child:			
Occupation:			
4. Name and Address of other person child:	nel or agencies involved with this		
Social Workers: Public Health Nurse: G.P.: Hospital:	School: Gardai: Pre-school/Creche/Youth Club: Other: specify e.g. Youth Groups, After-school clubs		
5. Are Parents/Legal Guardians awar Department?			
 Yes No If Yes, what is their attitude? 1. Details of Person reporting concerns: [Please see Guidance Notes re Limitations of Confidentiality] 			
2. Name: Address: Tel. No.	Occupation:		
Nature and extent of contact with Child / Family:			
7. Details of Person completing form. Name: Occupation:	Date: Signed:		

Standard Form for Reporting Child Protection or Welfare concerns adapted from $Our\ Duty\ to\ Care$

APPENDIX SEVEN

ROLE AND RESPONSIBILITY OF A DESIGNATED OFFICER

This Appendix describes the role of a Designated Officer/person within an organisation.

General

Every organisation should designate a person or persons to be responsible for dealing with any concerns about the protection of children.

- * The organisation's child protection policy and procedures should include the name of this person, his/her role and responsibilities and how (s)he can be contacted
- * The person designated should ensure that (s) he is knowledgeable about child protection and (s)he undertakes any training considered necessary, to keep himself/herself updated on new developments.

Role

The role of the designated person is to:

- * Establish contact with the senior member of Community Services responsible for child protection in the organisation's catchment area, i.e. Child Care Manager or Principal Social Worker.
- * Provide information and advice on child protection within the organisation.
- *Ensure that the organisation's child protection policy and procedures are followed and, particularly, to inform Community Services of relevant concerns about individual children.
- * Ensure appropriate information is available at the time of referral and that the referral is confirmed in writing, under confidential cover.

- * Liaise with Community Services/The Gardai and other agencies as appropriate.
- * Keep relevant people within the organisation informed, particularly the head or leader of the organisation.
- * Ensure that an individual case record is maintained of the action taken by the organisation, the liaison with other agencies and the outcome.
- * Advise the organisation of children protection training needs.

Responsibility

The designated person is responsible for acting as:

- * a source of advice on child protection matters
- * for co-ordinating action within the organisation, and
- * for liaising with Health Board and An Garda Siochana and other agencies about suspected or actual cases of child abuse.

Role and Responsibility of a Designated Officer is adapted from Factsheet 7 "Our Duty to Care"

APPENDIX EIGHT

LIST OF HEALTH SERVICE EXECUTIVE AREA SOCIAL WORK CONTACT DETAILS

Dublin Areas

*East Coast Area

Community Care Area	AREA SOCIAL WORK DEPARTMENT ADDRESS	Tel No.	Fax No.
Area 1	Our Lady's Clinic Patrick Street Dun Laoghaire, Co. Dublin - <i>Duty Social Worker</i>	01 -280 8403	01 -284 4995
Area 2	Vergemount Hall Clonskeagh, Dublin 6 -Principal and Duty Social Worker	01 -268 0320 / 0333	01 -268 0406
Area 10	Glenside Road Health Centre Wicklow Town [No Public Office] - Duty Social Worker	0404 -60800	0404 -60888
	Bray Health Centre, Block B Civic Offices, Main Street Bray, Co. Wicklow -Duty Social Worker	01- 2744100	01- 2744136

* Northern Area

Community Care Area	AREA SOCIAL WORK DEPARTMENT ADDRESS	Tel No.	Fax No.
Area 6	Wellmount Health Centre Finglas, Dublin 11 -Duty Social Worker	01 856 7704	01 856 7702
Area 7 North	22 Mountjoy Square Dublin 1 -Duty Social Worker	01 -801 4620	01 -901 4603
Area 8	Health Centre Cromcastle Road Coolock, Dublin 5. -Principal and Duty Social Worke	01 -816 4200 <u>r</u>	01-847 9593

* South Western Area

Community Care Area	AREA SOCIAL WORK DEPARTMENT ADDRESS	Tel No.	Fax No.
Dublin South City District	Carnegie Centre 21-25 Lord Edward Street Dublin 2 -Duty Social Worker	01 -648 6555	01 -648 6702
Dublin South West District	Health Centre Millbrook Lawns Tallaght, Dublin 24 -Duty Social Worker	01 -452 0666	01 -452 0501
Dublin West District	Bridge House Cherry Orchard Hospital Ballyfermot, Dublin 10 -Principal and Duty Social Worker	01 -620 6387	01 -620 6388
Kildare/West Wicklow District	Swan Centre, Fairgreen Naas, Co. Kildare	045 -882400	045 -882424

* South Western Area continued

Community Care Area	AREA SOCIAL WORK DEPARTMENT ADDRESS	Tel No.	Fax No.
	Athy Health Centre Woodstock Street Athy, Co. Kildare	059 -863 3535	059 -863 3566
	Celbridge Health Centre Maynooth Road Celbridge, Co. Kildare -Duty Social Worker	01 -6303155	01 -6303112