

Responding to Allegations of Abuse or Concerns About Children or Adults at Risk

All concerns must be brought to the Safeguarding Lead. Never delay acting. If you are unable to contact the safeguarding lead, you can contact the safeguarding lead for the OCD.

What to do if you encounter an allegation of harm of a child or adult at risk by a member of clergy / religious / church personnel comes to light, including:

- Inappropriate behaviour
- Possible harm caused to a child or adult at risk, or
- Possible crime committed against a child or adult at risk

This can take the form of:

Disclosure by
a child or
adult at risk

Observations

Concerns

Complaint or
whistleblowing

Allegations
and reports

- Listen to and reassure the child / adult
- Avoid expressing disbelief or colluding
- Tell them what you will do next and keep them updated
- Do not promise confidentiality, but do say that their wishes will be considered by all professionals
- Only share information on a need-to-know basis

**Consider:
Is there an immediate risk of danger?**

Yes

No

Immediately contact the police,
social services or local authority
designated officer (LADO)

Contact the safeguarding lead

Take notes and pass to the
safeguarding lead within 24 hours.
A record will be kept

The safeguarding lead will provide
updates or feedback where
necessary

Contact the safeguarding lead

If the safeguarding lead is not available,
contact the police, social services or local
authority designated officer (LADO)

Take notes and pass to the
safeguarding lead within 24 hours.
A record will be kept

Report allegations of past to the police,
even if the alleged perpetrator is no longer
alive or not perceived to be a current risk

The safeguarding lead will provide updates
or feedback where necessary

CACS Safeguarding: 07300319055 / safe@cacs.org.uk
OCD Safeguarding: 0743891670
RLSS: 0151 5562311 / safeguarding@religioussafeguarding.org
CSSA: 020 7901 1920 / admin@catholicsafeguarding.org.uk
LADO: 01865 810603 lado.safeguardingchildren@oxfordshire.gov.uk