

COVENANT OF CARE FOR CLERGY/RELIGIOUS

1. INTRODUCTION

This is a written agreement regarding the ministry of:

_____ *(name)*

with

_____ *(Bishop/Congregation Leader of Diocese/Religious Order)*

It seeks to facilitate him/her to worship, celebrate and to receive support whilst safeguarding children.

This agreement is an indication of the Church's commitment to all its members at all times but particularly in times of crisis. It aims to respect the human dignity and value of all as we are all created in God's image.

The commitment to manage the risk of child or vulnerable adult abuse and live a positive and healthy life must be life-long. The Church is committed to supporting any individual achieve this goal.

The purpose of this agreement is to:

- minimise potential risks to children, young people and vulnerable adults;
- ensure an effective and just investigation;
- reduce the possibility of inaccurate suspicions/accusations of abuse;
- maximise engagement in a treatment programme.

(Delete those that do not apply)

It is expected that the agreement is entered into in an honest manner by all parties and the support available is utilised in an active way.

The agreement will remain for an indefinite period and will be reviewed regularly.

If this agreement is not adhered to, the matter will be referred to the Safeguarding Commission which will ensure that prompt action to protect children, young people, and vulnerable adults is recommended to the Bishop/Congregation Leader.

NB Where relevant, all agreements should include the statutory authorities e.g. National Probation Service.

Written agreements regarding independent risk assessments between the subject and risk assessor must always be attached to this Agreement. (See National Policy for Independent Risk Assessments).

2. SAFE BEHAVIOUR

The above-named subject of this agreement will:

- be temporarily withdrawn from active ministry;
- live at/with:

(details)

- agree in writing any significant time away from this address e.g. overnight/holidays with the Bishop/Congregation Leader in consultation with the Safeguarding Co-ordinator/statutory authorities;
- avoid being alone with children and young people and take responsibility as the adult for behaving appropriately and removing himself/herself immediately from any such situations unforeseen or otherwise;
- discuss any activities or social functions on Church property with the Support Facilitator, and attend only with the agreement of the Bishop/Congregation Leader, in consultation with the Support Facilitator;
- attend designated services:

(state what these are)

- receive the Sacraments at:

(details).

- engage in the following ministerial duties only:

(details).

- **Ministry must not involve contact with children/young people and the issue of public ministry should be specifically addressed;**
- discuss with the Bishop/Congregation Leader any requests to minister outside of the above and become involved only with their agreement, following consultation with the Safeguarding Co-ordinator & Commission;
- avoid, in all circumstances, direct or indirect contact with the alleged victim (s);
- avoid, in all circumstances, visiting the location they have been removed from:

(details);

- ensure any contact with members of the location they have been removed from:

(details)

is agreed with the Bishop/Congregation Leader and channelled through the Safeguarding Co-ordinator.

3. SUPPORT

The above-named subject of this agreement will be supported by the Church in keeping to these conditions in accordance with National Safeguarding policies through:

making available a Support Facilitator:

(name and contact details).

The Support Facilitator will:

- offer the following support:

(details)

(e.g.

- sources of help
- access to legal/Canonical representation
- emotional, spiritual or practical support
- time/regular commitment)
- share the details of the child protection concerns with

(details of Safeguarding Co-ordinator/ Safeguarding Officer).

This is to facilitate the protection of children, young people and vulnerable adults as well as to cover the possibility of the subject of this agreement being wrongly suspected of abuse.

The subject of this agreement will:

- use the support in an active, honest manner and attend meetings with the above-named Support Facilitator as required by them;
- seek support at potentially risky times
e.g. periods of isolation/loneliness,
court hearing,
illegal fantasy,
use of legal/illegal drugs or pornography,
(insert as appropriate to individual)

so as to meet his/her needs in a positive, non-abusive manner and in accordance with the teachings of the Gospel.

4. RISK ASSESSMENT *

The above-named subject of this agreement will undertake an independent assessment of risk with

_____ *(name of assessor/organisation)*

(Written Agreement attached)

*Insert as appropriate

5. TREATMENT*

Treatment plays a significant part in enabling an individual to explore and address any feelings, thoughts or behaviour which may or may be seen to place children, young people and vulnerable adults at risk. In recognition of the worth of the subject of this agreement the Church will offer him/her:

- the opportunity to attend a treatment programme at

_____ *(details).*

- The duration of the treatment programme is

_____ *(details).*

- In accordance with the commissioning of the treatment, the outcome of the treatment programme will be shared with the Bishop/Congregation Leader, Safeguarding Co-ordinator and relevant members of the Safeguarding Commission in order to facilitate appropriate decision-making regarding his/her future role

The subject agrees to attend and engage in the treatment programme and adhere to the ground rules of the treatment programme.

*Insert as appropriate

6. MONITORING AND REVIEW

- The Safeguarding Commission will review this agreement every _____ months *(frequency)* and will recommend any amendments to the Bishop/Congregation leader, so as to promote the welfare of children, young people and vulnerable adults and to ensure adequate support is available to the subject of this agreement.
The date of the first review is _____ *(date).*
- At any time during this period, the subject of this agreement or a Church representative can request a meeting with the Bishop/Congregation Leader/Safeguarding Co-ordinator to address any perceived or actual breach of the agreement by either party.
- In the event of child, young people and vulnerable adult protection concerns being identified the Church's policy regarding informing the statutory authorities and any other relevant organisation/body will be followed.

7. CONFIDENTIALITY

- The sensitive information contained in this agreement will be stored securely and shared in confidence only with those entitled to it.
- The Support Facilitator will make a written record of any contact and this will be held in accordance with the Data Protection Act (1998).
- The subject of this agreement will have a right to access this written information.
- Contact will be made with the *Probation Officer/independent assessor/treatment facilitator who will meet with Church representatives as and when necessary. (** delete as appropriate*).

8. SIGNATURES

Signed:

_____ Date _____
SUBJECT

Signed:

_____ Date _____
SAFEGUARDING CO-ORDINATOR FOR AND ON BEHALF OF THE
SAFEGUARDING COMMISSION

Signed:

_____ Date _____
SUPPORT FACILITATOR

Signed:

_____ Date _____
BISHOP/CONGREGATION LEADER

