



ANOINTING FIRE CATHOLIC MINISTRY

CHILD SAFEGUARDING STATEMENT



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This statement has been prepared to comply with the requirements of the Children First Act 2015.

Name and Nature of service being provided.

Anointing Fire Catholic Ministry (Hereinafter called AFCM) is a missionary movement of Preachers of Divine Mercy (PDM) and Abhishekagni Sisters of Jesus and Mary (ASJM). AFCM, PDM and ASJM moves together with one heart, mind and spirit for the salvation of souls.

AFCM, a Charismatic Evangelization Preaching Community of Priests, Religious and Lay Ministers, work for the renewal of priests, nuns and lay people across the world. AFCM spreads the Gospel by serving as a torchbearer to millions through various social media outlets and languages brought about through the inspirations of the Holy Spirit, glorifying God in all and through all. It has thousands of ministers working for the glory of God including priests, nuns and lay ministers from different continents who work for the greater glory of God.

Being a missionary movement of Preachers of Divine Mercy (PDM) and Abhishekagni Sisters of Jesus and Mary (ASJM), AFCM, PDM and ASJM moves together with one heart, mind and spirit for the salvation of souls.

Statement

AFCM, as a registered organization in Ireland, recognizes and upholds the dignity and rights of all children, is committed to ensuring their safety and well-being and will work in partnership with parents/ guardians to do this. AFCM recognizes each child as a gift from God, and values and encourages the participation of children in all activities that enhance their spiritual, physical, emotional, intellectual and social development.

All personnel (including staff and volunteers) have a responsibility to safeguard children through promoting their welfare, health and development in a safe and caring environment that supports their best interests and prevents abuse.

Nature of service and principles to safeguard children from harm

AFCM Ireland through its religious activities engages with children in a variety of ways which include the following:

- Attendance by children in seminars and retreats usually, but not always accompanied by their parents or guardians;
- Participation of children in religious activities often, but not always, done in conjunction with schools;
- Participation in youth groups and programs;
- Participation in retreats pilgrimage

This list is not exhaustive

Safeguarding Principles

AFCM endeavors to provide an environment for children (persons up to the age of 18 years) that is welcoming, nurturing and safe. AFCM does this by:

- Adopting a child centered approach;
- Obtaining parental/ guardian permission for the involvement of children in AFCM Ireland activities;
- Choosing carefully those who work with children;
- Ensuring that AFCM workers and volunteers behave appropriately towards children;
- Encouraging positive behavior in children and adopting strategies to prevent bullying;
- Making proper arrangements when organizing activities and outings;
- Communicating appropriately with children and young people;

Risk Assessment

AFCM Child Safeguarding and Protection Service (CSPS) has carried out an assessment of the potential for harm to children through their involvement in religious activities. The following lists the identified risks and the practices and procedures in place for managing these risks.

<p>Risk of harm to a child by member of staff or volunteer.</p>	<p>Robust Recruitment Procedures. Appropriate Garda Vetting Procedures. Appointment of Designated Child Protection Liaison Officers. Code of behavior for staff to provide employees and volunteers with clear guidance on how to treat children. Implementation of Child Protection Policy in line with Children First requirements. Relevant Child Protection training for staff. Procedures to deal with an allegation of abuse made against an employee / volunteer.</p>
<p>Risk of harm from other service user.</p>	<p>Adequate staff to child ratios. Appropriate supervision of children/young people by staff. Code of conduct for service users on display in relevant services. Parents/guardians advised requirement to supervise children appropriately in publicly accessed buildings and services.</p>
<p>Risk of non-compliance with Children First Act 2015 and National Guidance.</p>	<p>Implementation of Child Protection Policy and Procedures in compliance with Children First Act. Appropriate recruitment and selection of employees and volunteers. Appropriate vetting procedures (in accordance with the National Vetting Bureau Act 2012 – 2016) for all relevant employees and volunteers. Appropriate training of staff. Appointment and training of Designated Child Protection Officer and deputy Designated Officer . Mandated persons within the organisation identified and a list of mandated persons held by Safeguarding Officer. Completion of Risk Assessment and Child Safeguarding Statement.</p>

<p>Risk of harm/concern not being recognized/Lack of Supervision by staff/volunteer.</p>	<p>Relevant Child Protection and awareness training to all staff. Clear reporting procedures in place. Details of Designated Officer circulated to all staff and contact details available on AFCM Website . Implementation of Child Protection Policy compliant with Children First requirements.</p>
<p>Risk Of harm to a child by a member of staff/Volunteer eg: Not reporting a concern</p>	<p>Procedure for Employee/Volunteer Reporting Child Protection Concerns) Failure to Report a concern (Procedure On Failure to Report a concern Page 20)</p>
<p>Risk of harm caused to young person/child due to them accessing inappropriate online content or inappropriate/abusive communications via social media.</p>	<p>IT and Digital Media Policy and Procedure. Firewall and content filter in spaces where children can access the internet and social media on AFCM devices</p>
<p>Risk of harm from external contractors/facilitators</p>	<p>External Contractors/Facilitators to advise AFCM that they have a Child Protection Policy and Child Safeguarding Statement in place or agree to adhere to AFCM Policy and Procedures. External facilitators who have direct contact with children are appropriately Garda Vetted.</p>
<p>Risk of harm to a child by another child in service</p>	<p>Code of Behaviour for Children and Young People (Policy And Procedure -Page 11)</p>
<p>Risk of harm to a child on outings by a member of staff/volunteer /peer/stranger</p>	<p>Procedure On Making Proper Arrangements when Organising Activities and Outings (Policy and Procedure -Page 19)</p>
<p>Risk of harm to a child from the use /misuse of digital images /Unauthorised photography</p>	<p>Policy And Procedure on Use of IT and Digital Media ,Use of Webcam & CCTV Policy Digital Media Consent Form</p>

Child Protection Procedures

AFCM promptly reports all concerns that a child may have been, is being or is at risk of being abused or neglected and manages such concerns as they apply to personnel in accordance with procedures developed in line with the requirements of the:

- Children First Act 2015,
- Children First: National Guidance for the Protection and Welfare of Children 2017,
- Child Safeguarding: A Guide for Policy, Procedure and Practice,
- Criminal Justice (Withholding of Information on Offences against Children and Vulnerable Persons) Act 2012.

A copy of this Child Safeguarding Statement is available on request and online at www.afcmireland.ie

Implementation

AFCM is committed to the implementation of this Child Safeguarding Statement and the practices and procedures that support our commitment to keeping children safe from harm while engaged in various religious activities in the organization.

This Child Safeguarding Statement will be reviewed in July 2024 or as soon as practicable after there has been a material change in any matter to which the statement refers.

Signed:



Silju Mathew,

National Coordinator,

Anointing Fire Catholic Ministry, Ireland

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For queries please contact:

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