



DIOCESE of
PARRAMATTA

Office for Safeguarding – Diocese of Parramatta

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Overview of reporting requirements in NSW relating to children and harm

<p>Risk of Significant Harm (ROSH) to children and young people: This is about a child or young person being at <u>current</u> risk of significant harm by any person.</p> <p>Legislation: Children and Young Persons (Care and Protection) Act 1998</p> <p>Reporting what: Risk of significant harm relating to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Neglect including medical and educational• Physical abuse• Sexual abuse• Domestic Violence• Emotional harm <p>Relates to harm caused to children (0-15 years) and young people (16 and 17 years):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• That is significant to the child or young person• Is a current concern• Will continue if there is no intervention• A person reports because they have reasonable grounds to suspect harm <p>Essentially, reports go to Department of Communities & Justice (DCJ) formerly FACS:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• You inform your Parish Priest or Manager of your concerns.• Parish Priest or Manager/Director of your service/ministry completes the Mandatory Reporter Guideline (MRG) and follows directions provided by MRG.• Parish Priest or Manager/Director will inform OSDP of the situation for support and guidance.• DCJ will assess if it requires government intervention or not• DCJ have authority to intervene to prevent current harm/abuse <p><i>NOTE: An issue may require reports to DCJ, NSW Police and NSW Children's Guardian. One does not remove the obligation to report to another. Seek advice if needed.</i></p>	<p>Allegations of "reportable conduct" - employment related child protection: This is about reporting allegations involving 'workers' (employee/volunteer/contractor/religious/clergy) engaged by the Diocese to deliver services to children.</p> <p>Legislation: Children's Guardian Act 2019</p> <p>Reporting what: Allegations about the conduct of workers including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Sexual misconduct• Sexual offence (includes grooming)• An assault against a child• Ill-treatment of a child• Psychological harm• Neglect of a child• An offence under s43B (failure to protect) or s316A (failure to report), Crimes Act 1900 <p>Is an allegation based <u>scheme</u>: Must report any allegation about a current worker engaged with the service, where the allegation involves conduct that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Was towards or involved a person under 18 years• Occurred anywhere in the world, and• At any point in time (includes historical allegations) <p>Note: A current risk or harm is not required.</p> <p>Essentially:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• A report is made to Parish Priest or Leader of service/ministry.• Parish Priest or Leader reports to Office for Safeguarding (OSDP).• OSDP conducts an assessment and if required arranges an investigation and makes a finding.• The NSW Office of the Children's Guardian (OCG) oversees how OSDP and the Catholic agency/ministry manages the complaint, process and outcomes.
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INFORMATION AND ADVICE ON CHANGES TO REPORTING

OBLIGATIONS AND PROCEDURES:

On 1 March 2020, mandatory reporter groups will include persons in religious ministry or persons providing religion-based activities to children.

This will include those who hold a Working with Children Check (WWCC) in your parish, ministry and agency under the Diocese of Parramatta.

Please see www.safeguarding.org.au for more information.

NSW Department of Communities and Justice:

- Website <https://www.dcj.nsw.gov.au/>
- Mandatory Reporters Guide: <https://reporter.childstory.nsw.gov.au/s/>
- Helpline: 132 111

NSW Police:

- Life threatening/Emergency situations: 000
- Police Assistance Line: 131 444

The NSW Office of The Children's Guardian:

- Website: <https://www.kidsguardian.nsw.gov.au/child-safe-organisations>
- Working with Children's Check
- Becoming a Child Safe Organisation
- Child Safe eLearning
- Reportable conduct scheme