Marie Auxiliatrice SAFEGUARDING POLICY – Ireland

1. POLICY OVERVIEW

The Congregation of Marie Auxiliatrice (MA) is committed to safeguarding all children and adults. This commitment directly relates to the fact that we are all made in the image and likeness of God and the Church's common belief in the preciousness, dignity and uniqueness of every human life. Each person has a right to expect the highest level of protection, love, encouragement and respect. We uphold this right and in our ministry we aim to foster the holistic development of people. So, we are committed to: **'A Safe and Welcoming Church – Safeguarding Children Policy and Standards for the Catholic Church in Ireland 2024'** and to implementing any changes needed into the future and ensuring we respond to victim/survivors promptly and compassionately.

2. SCOPE

2.1 This policy and procedure applies to all within Marie Auxiliatrice, members and staff, regardless of the role or the activities they undertake.

2.2 It is the responsibility of all within Marie Auxiliatrice to prevent abuse, whether this abuse is by action or omission. Abuse in MA Safeguarding Policy refers to: physical; sexual; emotional; spiritual; neglect; self-neglect; organisational; material; psychological; financial; online; domestic or verbal. Additionally, behaviour which effectively results in modern-day slavery or where there is evidence of discrimination or radicalisation, this will be recognised and addressed as a safeguarding issue, in accordance with the procedures outlined in Section 6.

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3. **Training**

3.1 All MA members & employees will undergo Safeguarding Training relevant to their role.

4. ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES

4.1 The Entity Leader is responsible for ensuring appropriate policy procedures and best practice are in place for the effective delivery of a robust safeguarding service. Certain functions of the Entity Leader will be delegated to members of the Entity, as follows:

4.2 The Safeguarding Designated Liaison Person (DLP) has direct oversight of the Congregation of MA safeguarding policy and guidance and case management responsibility. She liaises with the NBSCCCI as necessary.

4.3 The Trustees

The Board has a duty to maintain appropriate governance and oversight of safeguarding in line with this policy and **A Safe and Welcoming Church – Safeguarding Children Policy and Standards for the Catholic Church in Ireland, 2024**.

4.4 All other roles

All members have an obligation to ensure they know how to respond to safeguarding concerns by making themselves familiar with the content of this policy and the procedure contained within it and any other associated policies/procedures. This also needs to be ensured as regards employees.

4.5 General

Everyone involved in the work of MA has a duty to disclose to the Safeguarding DLP or Entity Leader any safeguarding concerns that have been raised to or about them.

5. PRACTICE GUIDANCE

5.1 Action must be taken if a concern is raised that a child or adult is suffering or is likely to suffer from significant harm. This includes, but is not limited to:

- Someone who is at serious risk of harm from self or others.
- Someone who poses a serious risk of harm to someone else.
- A concern about a child or vulnerable adult at risk of harm from someone else.
- Concerns over someone's mental capacity.

5.2 Action must also be taken in line with the Church's mandatory reporting policy. This means appropriate action must be taken if there are reasonable grounds to believe that someone who holds any role within the Church is going to or has committed a crime, is going to or has caused harm, poses a risk or is otherwise unsuitable to work in their role.

6. PROCEDURE

6.1 If a member of the Congregation of Marie Auxiliatrice or an employee becomes aware of a concern as detailed in Section 5 or any other safeguarding issue, they must inform the DLP without delay.

6.1.2 In situations where there is a concern or allegation of abuse the Safeguarding DLP will:

- Establish if reasonable grounds for concern exists
- Where possible, meet with the complainant
- When a threshold for concern has been met, report to the statutory authorities without delay
- Submit a notification to the NBSCCCI if the suspicion, concern or allegation of abuse relates to a member of the MA, or is a priest or religious from another congregation
- In consultation with the statutory authorities, inform the person alleged to have caused harm of the allegation, the nature of the allegation, and give them an opportunity to respond, unless advised by the statutory authorities not to share such information at this time
- In consultation with the Entity Leader take proportionate appropriate interim protective measures
- Offer a support service to the complainant
- Accurately and factually record all the relevant information

6.2 Confidentiality

- Information in relation to child protection and welfare concerns must only be shared on a need-to-know basis
- No undertaking regarding secrecy can be given
- Provision of information to the statutory authorities for the protection of a child is not a breach of confidentiality
- Parents/guardians and children have a right to know if personal information is being shared, unless doing so would put a child at further risk

6.3.1 Safeguarding Bodies

- NBSCCCI
- Towards Healing
- Towards Peace
- Local Authority Safeguarding Team – Adults.
- Local Authority Safeguarding Team – Children.
- Local Garda Station.
- Garda Emergency: Tel. 999 and 112.
- HSE National Safeguarding Office: safeguarding.socialcare@hse.ie
- Tusla.ie
- NSPCC.
- Garda National Vetting Bureau.

7. WHISTLEBLOWING

7.1 The Congregation of Marie Auxiliatrice has a Whistleblowing Policy, and will encourage and enable anyone with a safeguarding concern, to refer the concern without fear of victimisation, or disadvantage.

8. RECORDING AND STORAGE OF SAFEGUARDING CONCERNS AND CASE FILES

8.1 Primarily the Safeguarding DLP has the responsibility to ensure that all case files, any concerns or allegations referred to the Congregation of Marie Auxiliatrice are accurate, auditable, updated and stored securely in accordance with the Data Protection Policy of MA

9. SAFER RECRUITMENT PRACTICE GUIDANCE

9.1 The Congregation of Marie Auxiliatrice will ensure that safe measures are applied in the recruitment of congregation members and lay staff. Anyone recruited to work with children and adults at risk will be required to complete Garda Vetting in line with both Statutory and Catholic Church requirements.

9.2 On appointment, during induction, all new employees will be provided with safeguarding policies and procedures for which they must sign their understanding and acceptance.

Key Roles	**Names**	**Contact Information**
Entity Leader:	Sr. M Teresa Brogan	Tel. 28 57 389 ter_brogan@yahoo.fr
Designated Liaison Person (DLP):	Mary Leahy	Tel. 0044 151 922 9305 Email: maryleahy534@hotmail.com