Safeguarding Policy for Corboy Presbyterian Church

Aligned with Presbyterian Church in Ireland (PCI) Safeguarding Procedures and Republic of Ireland Legislation

Corboy Congregation of the Presbyterian Church in Ireland Safeguarding Policy

1. Policy Statement

This congregation adopts the safeguarding policy of the Presbyterian Church in Ireland (PCI) as set out in:

https://presbyterianireland.org/safeguarding/safeguarding-for-republic-of-ireland/republic-of-ireland-safeguarding-guidelines

This policy is aligned with Republic of Ireland legislation and guidance including:

- Children First Act 2015
- Children First National Guidance for the Protection and Welfare of Children 2017
- Safeguarding Vulnerable Persons at Risk – National Policy and procedures
- PCI child and adult safeguarding policy and requirements

We are committed to safeguarding children, young people, and adults at risk. The welfare of the individual is paramount.

2. Key Principles

In line with PCI policy our congregation will ensure:

1. There is an aligned Designated Person and Adult Safeguarding Champion (ASC)

2. We have robust procedures for the recruitment, checking and monitoring of staff and volunteers working with children

3. Anyone engaging with children and young people through the denomination will be trained at least once every 3 years in how to recognise, respond to and report abuse as well as understand their role in the prevention of abuse

4. The denomination has clear processes for the reporting of abuse and the risk of harm, both externally to statutory services and internally through a clearly identified chain of responsibility

5. Identified risks to children and young people are assessed and managed

6. Any person of risk engaged in our ministries (for example those with a history of serious offending behaviour) is safely managed, monitored and supported

7. We have a timely, effective and sensitive approach to managing non-recent abuse disclosures

8. Children and young people from other countries are protected and cared for while engaging in our ministries and missions

9. We have appropriate ways for children and young people to voice their opinions and concerns, and be listened and responded to

10.The congregation has safe and confidential methods for managing information

3. Roles and Responsibilities

The Designated Liaison Person (DLP) and Adult Safeguarding Champion In line with Chapter 2 of the PCI procedures

- Receive concerns
- Ensure through and with the Mandated Persons referrals to Tulsa are made or to the HSE on Adult Safeguarding
- Liaises with Garda where necessary
- Maintains secure records

Mandated Responders

Our mandated reporters are:

- **Wallace Moore**
- _____

They have legal responsibility to report to Tusla when reporting thresholds are met and assist Tusla in their enquiries

Our Kirk Session:

- Holds overall safeguarding responsibility
- Identifies our '**mandated responders'** to Presbytery
- Appoints a '**relevant person'** to lead on the congregation's risk assessment and communicates this appointment to Presbytery
- Ensures with the relevant person that the Congregation's Child Safeguarding Statement is completed, displayed and reviewed every 2 years
- Ensures compliance with PCI and Child First requirements on safeguarding processes, systems and reporting

Leaders:

- Follow safeguarding procedures
- Report concerns immediately to the DLP
- Attend training

4. Safe Recruitment

Our congregation will follow best recruitment practices as set out in Chapter 6 and 7 of the PCI procedures and we will ensure that all leaders must:

- Complete an application form and references
- Be interviewed by our Kirk Session
- Undergo Gardai NVB checks for roles that require these
- Complete safeguarding training
- No regulated activity is permitted until checks are complete and approved.
- The church will recheck through NVB those in regulated activity roles every 3 years

5. Responding to Concerns

If a disclosure is made our safeguarding staff will in line with Chapter 2 of the PCI procedures:

- Listen carefully
- Do not promise confidentiality
- Reassure
- Record accurately
- Report immediately to DLP
- Do not investigate or delay.

6. Reporting Procedure

All concerns reported to the DLP or the ASC in line with Chapter 3 of the procedures who will where necessary:

- Seek advice and clarification from Tusla
- Mandated referrals to Tusla
- Refer adult concerns to Adult Safeguarding Teams
- Contact Gardai if a crime is suspected
- Follow PCI safeguarding procedures
- Emergency: Call 999

7. Confidentiality

- Information is shared on a need-to-know basis only.
- Confidentiality cannot override safeguarding responsibilities.
- Speak to the PCI safeguarding team

8. Record Keeping

As a congregation we will keep

- Accurate, signed and dated records
- That are stored securely
- Retained in line with PCI and GDPR requirements

9. Safeguarding in Practice

The congregation will ensure compliance with guidance around

- Appropriate supervision ratios
- Risk assessments
- Safe premises
- Consent procedures
- Safe transportation of children
- Application of the church's procedures to 3 party organisations and missions

10. Digital Communication

- No private messaging with children
- Use group communication
- Maintain transparency and accountability

11. Allegations Against Leaders

- Report immediately to DLP and follow processes in Chapter 3
- Referral to statutory agencies
- PCI Safeguarding Office informed
- Comply with PCI requirements on Emergency Safeguarding Panels

12. The management of Safeguarding Agreements (offenders and serious allegations)

Our congregation will in line with Chapter 14 of the Procedures

- Comply with requirements on development of safeguarding agreements

13. Training

All our leaders must complete PCI safeguarding training and refresher training in line with RoI expectations.

14. Code of conduct

Our church complies with the PCI guidance and standards of behaviours expected of all our leaders and those in responsibility.

15. Review

Policy reviewed bi-annually by Kirk Session and updated in line with PCI and RoI legislation.

16. Key Contacts

Our key contacts are:

Mandated Reporters: Wallace Moore 089 485 4214

DLP: Jenny Felce 086 173 2422

Deputy DLP: N/A

Tusla / HSE 044 935 3999

Garda : 101 (non-emergency) / 999 (emergency)

PCI Safeguarding Office: 0044 28 9041 7234

15. Adoption

Adopted by Kirk Session:

Date: 19 August 2026

Signed: _____

Next date of Review: September 2028