



CHILD PROTECTION GLTC – REPORTING PROCEDURE

The following outlines the reporting procedure for dealing with disclosures, concerns or allegations of child abuse within Glenageary LTC.

1. The Coach, committee member or club member who has received a disclosure of child abuse or who has concerns about a child should bring them to the attention of the Designated Liaison Person (DLP) immediately. All committee members must have Safe-guarding (SG) 1 courses completed and garda vetting completed to deal with complaints. Child protection officers must have SG2 completed. DLP must have SG1 & 3 completed.
2. Under no circumstances should a child be left in a situation that exposes him or her to harm or of risk to harm pending an intervention. In the event of an emergency where you think a child is in **immediate** danger and you cannot get in contact with Child Protection Officers, you should contact the any member of the Committee, or failing that, the Gardai.
3. Where the Designated Liaison Person considers that a child protection or welfare concern meets the reasonable grounds for concern criteria outlined below, then the Designated Liaison Person can refer to Tusla if necessary.
4. On receipt of a bullying complaint, the club should appoint a disciplinary committee to resolve problems / relations to the conduct of its members. The complaint should be made in writing to the child protection officer and should be responded to within 5 working days. The committee should consist of a representative from the management committee, a children's officer and an ordinary registered member of the club. If the complaint involves suspected abuse or a criminal offence, the child protection officer or designated liaison person should be consulted immediately. The disciplinary committee must be disbanded and the statutory authorities to be informed.

Examples of reasonable grounds for concern are:

- specific indication from the child that he/she was abused;
- an account by the person who saw the child being abused;
- evidence, such as an injury or behaviour which is consistent with abuse and unlikely to be caused in another way;
- an injury or behaviour which is consistent with abuse and with an innocent explanation but where there are corroborative indicators supporting the concern that it may be a case of abuse. An example of this would be a pattern of injuries, an implausible explanation, other indications of abuse, dysfunctional behaviour;
- Consistent indication over a period of time that a child is suffering from emotional or physical neglect.