



SECTION
08

CLUB AND COUNTY DESIGNATED LIAISON PERSON

THIS GUIDANCE FORMS PART OF THE
CODE OF BEHAVIOUR (UNDERAGE)



THE DESIGNATED LIAISON PERSON

All Clubs and County Boards shall appoint a Designated Liaison Person who on their behalf shall be responsible for dealing with concerns relating to the possible abuse of children.

The Designated Liaison Person, or DLP as referred to hereafter, must be familiar with the safeguarding and child welfare roles and responsibilities of statutory authorities and agencies within their jurisdiction, and the *Association's Guidance for Dealing with & Reporting Allegations or Concerns of Abuse* and our *Code of Behaviour (Underage)*.

The Designated Liaison Person is responsible for ensuring the reporting of allegations or concerns of abuse to Tusla (ROI) or Gateway Services Team at the Health and Social Care Trusts (NI) and/or An Garda Síochána/Police Service of Northern Ireland, having established reasonable grounds for concern. A report may be made by the Club or County DLP or the County DLP, as appropriate, or as a joint report with a Mandated Person (ROI) and must be done without delay once reasonable grounds for concern have been established.

When appointing a DLP the relevant committee should also appoint a Deputy DLP whose services may be called upon in the event of the absence or unavailability of the DLP or in the event of a conflict of interest involving the DLP. Should a Club or County Committee fail to appoint a DLP, the role automatically falls to the Chairperson of the Club or County Committee.

If deemed appropriate Provincial Councils may also appoint a Designated Liaison Person.

Each of the Gaelic Games Associations shall appoint a National Designated Liaison Person to ensure that County Committees and Club Executives are appraised as to their child protection and safeguarding responsibilities and shall, in consultation with other Designated Liaison Persons, represent their Associations on matters relating to the reporting of child abuse allegations, where such representations may be required.

[The Gaelic Games Guidance for Dealing with and Reporting Allegations or Concerns of Abuse](#) acts as a directive for DLPs, parents and members of our Association when dealing with concerns of abuse.



THE CLUB DESIGNATED LIAISON PERSON

The Designated Liaison Persons at Club level, appointed by their Club Executive Committee, shall be responsible for dealing with concerns relating to the possible abuse of children.

The appointed person must complete the *Gaelic Games Designated Liaison Persons Safeguarding Training* workshop, regardless of any external prior training or additional qualifications, and have the ability to approach child welfare and protection matters in a sensible, balanced, facilitative and nonthreatening manner and should be aware of the responsibilities that they are required to fulfil on behalf of their Club and their Association.

The DLP must be familiar with the safeguarding and child welfare roles and responsibilities of statutory authorities and agencies within their jurisdiction and with the role of the National Designated Person and Mandated Persons.

It is important to note that the Designated Liaison Person does not have a counselling or therapeutic role or a responsibility for investigating or validating child protection concerns within their Club or County.

If the Club DLP is conflicted in relation to the parties to, or the subject matter of an allegation/concern, the matter should be referred to the Deputy DLP. If for whatever reason the Deputy DLP may also be conflicted then the matter should be notified to the Chairperson of the Club and a temporary DLP should be appointed to address the matter or it may be referred to the National DLP for their consideration.

The Club Designated Liaison Person is responsible for ensuring the reporting of allegations or suspicions of child abuse to Tusla (ROI) or Health and Social Care Trusts (NI) and/or An Garda Síochána/Police Service of Northern Ireland, having established reasonable grounds for concern.

THE CLUB DESIGNATED LIAISON PERSON SHALL:

- Be aware and committed to the *Association's Guidance for Dealing with & Reporting Allegations or Concerns of Abuse* and our *Code of Behaviour (Underage)*
- Have knowledge of relevant child protection and safeguarding legislation in the jurisdiction in which they operate
- Have a knowledge of categories and indicators of abuse
- Undertake relevant child safeguarding training (*Safeguarding 1 & 3*)
- Be aware of local contacts and services in relation to child protection i.e., principal and duty social workers and their contact details, Gardai/PSNI, Tusla/Gateway teams etc. (Appendix 5 and 7)
- Consult informally with statutory authorities on child abuse concerns or allegations, if deemed necessary
- Communicate with parents and/or Statutory Agencies as and when appropriate
- Follow reporting procedures and inform Statutory Agencies and their Association's DLP/Mandated Person of any concerns or allegations as a matter of urgency
- Maintain regular contact with their National DLP/Mandated Person and seek their advice whenever required

- When reasonable grounds for concern exist where a child may have been, is being or is at risk of being abused, a report should be made without delay to Tusla and/or An Garda Síochána, or to the relevant Gateway Team or PSNI
- A report may be made by the Club DLP or the County DLP, as appropriate, or as a joint report with a Mandated Person (ROI) and must be done without delay
- Always forward a copy of reported concerns and allegations received, whether reported to statutory authorities or not, to your Association's DLP/Mandated Person
- Advise club administrators on issues of confidentiality, record keeping and data protection
- Inform the National DLP/Mandated Person if you are aware that a member of the Association, in your Club or County, is or has been subject to a statutory investigation, a prosecution or a conviction in relation to the abuse of a child or an adult
- Be aware of and maintain regular contact with their National DLP/Mandated Person and always inform the National DLP/Mandated Person of any concerns or reports made and seek advice from the National DLP/Mandated Person as appropriate
- Make themselves known to the general membership of the Club and in particular to team mentors, managers and to parents



THE COUNTY DESIGNATED LIAISON PERSON

The County Designated Liaison Person, appointed by their County Committee, shall be responsible for dealing with concerns relating to the possible abuse of children arising from County related or referred matters. The County DLP may be called upon to assist, advise or carry out the role of Club DLP in certain circumstances.

The appointed person must complete the *Gaelic Games Designated Liaison Persons Safeguarding Training* workshop, regardless of any external prior training or additional qualifications, and have the ability to approach child welfare and protection matters in a sensible, balanced, facilitative and nonthreatening manner and should be aware of the responsibilities that they are required to fulfil on behalf of their County and their Association.

Appointment to this role does not infer or grant the DLP a role as an Officer of their County Committee (Board).

The County Designated Liaison Person shall be required in certain situations to lead on child welfare and protection matters in the County in a knowledgeable, sensible, balanced, facilitative and non-threatening manner and should be aware of the responsibilities that they are required to fulfil on behalf of their County.

THE COUNTY DESIGNATED LIAISON PERSON SHALL:

- Ensure that all Clubs have appointed a Designated Liaison Person and that these officers have Gaelic Games Designated Liaison Persons Safeguarding Training, are fully aware of their responsibilities and of the contents of the *Guidance for Dealing with & Reporting Allegations or Concerns of Abuse* booklet and the *Code of Behaviour (Underage)*
- Act as the formal liaison person between the County Board and statutory authorities on all matters related to allegations of child abuse arising from activities organised under the auspices of the County Board
- Have knowledge of statutory guidelines and relevant legislation as they relate to child protection and welfare of young people in their jurisdiction
- Liaise with the National Designated Liaison Person on matters appropriate to their role
- Communicate with parents and external agencies as appropriate
- Assist with and identify the need for *Child Protection in Sport Awareness Workshop* training within the County through their liaison with Club Designated Liaison Persons and Children's Officers at Club and County level
- Be aware of local contacts and support services that may assist in developing and delivering their role
- Ensure that all individual case records pertaining to their role are maintained, that all actions taken are recorded and that such records are kept in a secure and confidential place
- Formally report allegations or concerns of child abuse to the statutory authorities as required, having established that reasonable grounds for concern exist
- When making a report to Tusla DLPs are encouraged to use the Tusla reporting portal when submitting the Tusla Child Protection and Welfare Report Form

- When making a report to a Gateway Team//PSNI the report should include the child's name, address and age and the name address of parents/guardians, the name, if known, of the alleged perpetrator, the grounds for concern including details of the allegation, dates of incidents, description of injuries etc.
- Always forward a copy of reported concerns and allegations received, whether reported to statutory authorities or not, to your Association's DLP/Mandated Person by completing the *Gaelic Games Associations' Internal Reporting Allegations of Abuse Form* (Appendix 8)

THE PROVINCIAL DESIGNATED LIAISON PERSON

A Provincial Designated Liaison Person may be appointed by the relevant Provincial Council as the need for such a role is identified and agreed. The person appointed shall ensure that each County in their Province has appointed a County Designated Liaison Person and that such persons are fully au fait with their roles and responsibilities.

THE PROVINCIAL DESIGNATED LIAISON PERSON SHALL:

- Have comprehensive and detailed knowledge and experience of child welfare, protection and reporting procedures and be familiar with all such procedures in the jurisdictions in which they operate
- Promote the role of Club and County Designated Liaison Persons and provide information and advice for them in assisting them to fulfil their role
- Promote the joint *Code of Behaviour (Underage), the Guidance for Dealing with & Reporting Allegations or Concerns of Abuse*
- Liaise and consult with statutory authorities and other relevant agencies on child report welfare and protection matters if required to do so
- In consultation with National Designated Liaison Person represent the Association on matters relating to the reporting of child abuse allegations, if so required
- The Provincial Designated Liaison Person may be required in situations to lead on child welfare and protection matters in a knowledgeable, sensible, balanced, facilitative and non-threatening manner and should be aware of the responsibilities that they are required to fulfil on behalf of their Province and their Association
- The Provincial Designated Liaison Person shall forward a report of all reported concerns and allegations received, whether reported to statutory authorities or not, to their Association's DLP/Mandated Person

DEBARMENT OF A PERSON FROM GAELIC GAMES ACTIVITIES

Where it has been established that there are reasonable grounds for suspecting that a child has been, is being or is at risk of being abused a debarment order against any person named in the complaint or report shall be considered.

- Consultation on a debarment should take place with the National DLP
- In most circumstances it is the DLP, or a person on their behalf, who following consultations with the National DLP shall issue a debarment order and shall do so in writing.

- Inform the person against whom allegations have been made as to the nature of the allegations or may delegate such action to another officer
- The debarment of any individual should be done in a confidential manner and the presumption of innocence remains until proven otherwise
- A debarment decision, must be confirmed in writing, is a temporary decision, and once communicated, comes into effect immediately and recipient and may only be removed by a Case Management Committee, as appointed by the Child Safeguarding Committee, or if successfully appealed to the National Child Safeguarding Appeals Panel

HOW TO CONTACT YOUR NATIONAL DESIGNATED LIAISON PERSON

- The GAA/Rounders/Handball National Designated Liaison Person is Gearóid Ó Maoilmhichíl nationaldlp@gaa.ie or by telephone at 01- 8658675
- The LGFA National Designated Liaison Person is Paula Prunty nationaldlp@lgfa.ie or by telephone at 01-8363156
- The Camogie Association National Designated Liaison Person is Roberta Farrell nationaldlp@camogie.ie or by telephone at 01-8192934



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