



DEFINITIONS OF ABUSE (THIS LIST IS NOT EXHAUSTIVE)

Discriminatory Abuse includes racist, sexist, homophobic, religious, disability or age-related forms of harassment, slurs or similar treatment.

Emotional Abuse includes threats of harm or abandonment, isolation, deprivation of contact, humiliation, blaming, controlling, intimidation, coercion, harassment, verbal abuse or withdrawal from services or supportive networks.

Financial or Material Abuse including theft, fraud, exploitation, pressure in connection with wills or property or inheritance or financial transactions, or the misuse or misappropriation of property, possessions or benefits.

Neglect and Acts of Omission including ignoring medical or physical care needs, failure to provide access to appropriate health, social care or educational services, withholding the necessities of life such as medication, adequate nutrition and heating.

Physical Abuse includes hitting, slapping, pushing, kicking, and misuse of medication, restraint, or inappropriate sanctions.

Sexual Abuse including rape, sexual assault, sexual innuendos, sexual activity or viewing sexually explicit materials, to which the person has not given consent.

Spiritual Abuse is coercion and control of one individual by another in a spiritual context. It may include misuse of scripture to control behaviour or the suggestion that the abuser has a 'divine' position.

Domestic Abuse is a pattern of behavior in any relationship that is used to gain or maintain power and control over an intimate partner. Abuse is physical, sexual, emotional, economic, or psychological actions or threats of actions that influence another person.

Coercive Control includes manipulation and manipulation of behaviour.

CONCERNS

A Concern is an anxiety about an issue of abuse. Grounds for concerns can arise from a wide range of circumstances, for example (this list is not exhaustive):

- A child, young person or adult at risk states that abuse has taken place, or he/she feels unsafe.
- Information is received anonymously or by a third party.
- Grooming of a child, young person, or adult at risk.
- The appearance and/or behaviour of a child, young person or adult at risk causes concern.

Even if doubt exists about a concern, the Church's referral system must be followed.

Do not alert the person about whom concern has been raised. Doing so could place someone at risk, damage evidence or interfere with an investigation.



ALLEGATIONS

An allegation is an accusation of abuse based on available information, for example (this list is not exhaustive):

- A person states that they have been abused.
- A person states that they have been informed of, or witnessed, abuse.
- A person making an allegation may or may not be able to name the alleged perpetrator. They may be unable or unwilling to name the alleged perpetrator.

The alleged abuser must not be alerted, either directly or indirectly. Doing so could place someone at risk, damage evidence or interfere with an investigation.