



GLOSSARY OF TERMS

Canon law: In the Catholic Church, canon law is the system of laws and legal principles made and enforced by the Church's hierarchical authorities to regulate its internal organisation and government, and to order and direct the activities of Catholics toward the mission of the Church.

Canon lawyer: A canon lawyer is an appropriately trained and qualified practitioner of canon law. His/her responsibility is to advise people about their rights and responsibilities under canon law.

CSSA: Catholic Safeguarding Standards Agency. Monitors compliance by Church bodies with the safeguarding standards adopted by the Church in England and Wales

CDF: Stands for the Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith. According to Article 48 of the Apostolic Constitution on the Roman Curia, *Pastor Bonus*, promulgated by Pope John Paul II on 28 June 1988: 'The proper duty of the Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith is to promote and safeguard the doctrine on faith and morals in the whole Catholic world.'

Child: Anyone below the age of eighteen years.

Children with specific needs: This term is used to cover the specific, or unique, out-of-the ordinary concerns created by the child's medical, physical, mental or developmental condition or disability. Additional services are usually needed to help a person in one or more of the following areas: thinking, communication, movement, getting along with others, and taking care of oneself.

Church authority: This term does not appear in canon law. It can refer to the leader of the Church body, usually the bishop or provincial, or the senior administrative authority of a lay organisation or ecclesial movement. This term includes (while in office) prior, prioress, abbot, abbess, congregational leaders, province leader, unit leader, superior, archbishop, cardinal and diocesan administrator

Church body: Canon law contains many distinctions between the types of Church organisations and bodies that have developed over the life of the Catholic Church. It would be impractical to include all of these when referring to an element of the Church that has a child safeguarding responsibility. In this document, the term 'Church bodies' is used as shorthand to include all of those constituent members of the Catholic Church in Ireland.

Co-worker: The term 'Co-worker' is used to define those who work (voluntarily or paid) for the Church body. This includes clergy, male and female religious, all in formation for priesthood and religious life, staff and volunteers.

CICLS: Stands for the Congregation for Institutes of Consecrated Life and Societies of Apostolic Life, and is the congregation of the Roman Curia responsible for everything that concerns Institutes of Consecrated Life (orders and religious congregations, both of men and of women, as well as secular



institutes) and Societies of Apostolic Life, regarding their government, discipline, studies, goods, rights and privileges.

Cleric: One ordained in sacred ministry in the Church. Clerics are divided into deacons, priests and bishops.

Collecting the proofs: As defined in Canon 695, this is part of the process of dismissal to gather facts, on the imputability of the offence,

Complainant: This is a term used to describe a person who has made an allegation of abuse.

Decree: A singular decree is an administrative act issued by a Church authority, in which a decision is given or a provision is made under a case according to the norms of law.

Delict: A crime in canon law. This is an external violation of a law or precept, gravely imputable by reason of malice or negligence.

Designated liaison person: (Ire) The person appointed by the Church authority in Ireland to liaise with the statutory authorities regarding child safeguarding suspicions, concerns, knowledge or allegations

Interim management plan: A plan put in place with the respondent during the process of investigation of an allegation of abuse by the Church and statutory authorities.

Mandated persons: (Ire) People who have contact with children and/or families, who, by virtue of their qualifications, training and experience, are in a key position to help protect children from harm

Mandatory reporting: (Ire) There is a legal requirement to report offences in Northern Ireland. This means that any concerns of abuse must be referred to the police by law. The DLP makes this referral to the police.

In Southern Ireland, under the Children First Act 2015 mandated persons have two main legal obligations under the Children First Act 2015:

- To report harm of children, above a defined threshold, to Tusla.
- To assist Tusla, if requested, in assessing a concern which has been the subject of a mandated report.

As a mandated person, under the legislation the mandated person is required to report any knowledge, belief or reasonable suspicion that a child has been harmed, is being harmed, or is at risk of being harmed. The Act defines harm as assault, ill-treatment, neglect or sexual abuse, and covers single and multiple instances

Ministry with children:

This includes:

- Any work or service undertaken by Church personnel with children, which is under the authority of their Church body; and



- All priests in active ministry under the authority of their Church body are to be considered as having ministry with children.

NTS: National Tribunal Service (UK) deals with canonical processes to enhance impartiality and transparency and provide consistency in the application of canon law in penal cases.

Preliminary investigation: This is a canonical term referring to the process by which a Church authority determines whether an alleged delict, which has reached the threshold of a semblance of truth, is not manifestly false or frivolous and remains a case to answer

PSNI: Police Service of Northern Ireland

Religious: Female and male members of religious institutes and societies in which the members take public vows and live a life of ministry in common.

RLSS: Religious Life Safeguarding Service. Offers specialist safeguarding service to the Religious of the Catholic Church in England and Wales

Respondent: This term is used for the person about whom child protection suspicions, concerns, knowledge or allegations have been made.

UNCRC: United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child. An international convention that outlines in 54 articles the fundamental rights of those aged under 18 years and the obligations of States that sign the Convention to uphold the rights it contains.

VELM: *Vos Estis Lux Mundi* is a *Motu Proprio* issued in May 2019 by Pope Francis. It established new procedural norms to combat sexual abuse and ensure that bishops and their equivalents are held accountable for their actions.