



## Safeguarding News

May 2021

Greetings all,

Welcome to the Heartbeat Safeguarding Segment!

I hope this message finds you well and you have enjoyed a positive beginning to 2021. We are now a quarter of the way into 2021, however I'm not quite sure where the first few months have gone!

You will recall that we have been working on a framework of Safeguarding Policies. I am thrilled to announce that the SOSJ Child Safeguarding Committee endorsed this framework of Child Safeguarding Policy's and the Congregational Leadership Team have now approved these policies.

We shall soon be recording a YouTube message from Sr Monica to the Congregation, launching the Safeguarding Policy Framework. This YouTube shall be available for Sisters, Josephite Affiliates, lay employees, and volunteers to view. Sr Monica shall be encouraging all persons to embrace the policies and future safeguarding training. It is hoped that the YouTube is available sometime from early May.

Following Sr Monica's YouTube message being available, the Safeguarding Policies shall be available on the SPIRIT Intranet. Some of the safeguarding policies, such as Child Safeguarding Policy and the Child Safeguarding Complaint Handling Policy and Reporting Procedure, shall also be available on the SOSJ public website.

There shall be some required online safeguarding training for all to access, with more details about this in the near future. We shall be providing some additional safeguarding training in relation to some of the SOSJ policies, and we are currently considering how this training will occur and various delivery methods for such, especially considering the COVID pandemic. We are, however, very excited to be commencing this next chapter of our safeguarding journey together.

You may have seen our re-designed Child Safeguarding Commitment Statement, on display in many SOSJ buildings where the public may enter, such as the Regional offices, centres, and museums. Please encourage all to read about our commitment to child safeguarding, especially any visitors to SOSJ.

We have made some further additions to the safeguarding pod within SPIRIT and the SOSJ public website. The Child Safety Reporting Process and the Child Safety Reporting Form are both now available on SPIRIT and the SOSJ public website. The Child Safety Reporting Form is a fillable PDF.

We have also added to SPIRIT, the Child Safeguarding Lines of Authority and Accountability, as the National Catholic Safeguarding Standards require that this information is available for all personnel.

As employees of SOSJ, we are required to do our part in creating a safe environment for children and contribute to ensuring that SOSJ is a child safe organisation. Here are a few examples of how we each can do this regardless of our role or position at SOSJ:

- We need to be aware of and familiar with our Child Safeguarding Commitment Statement and the important messages contained within it, such as having a zero tolerance for child abuse and knowing we are all responsible for the safeguarding of children. Knowing where the Child Safeguarding

Commitment Statement is physically on display, and that we can also access it electronically under the Safeguarding pod on SPIRIT and the SOSJ public website.

- We shall need to be aware of and familiar with our Child Safeguarding Policy Framework. We don't need to remember every detail of each policy; however, we do need to be responsible for reading the policies and knowing how and where to access them (soon to be available under the safeguarding pod on SPIRIT and the SOSJ public website). Again, these shall be available after Sr Monica's YouTube launch.
- We shall need to commit to the Child Safeguarding Code of Conduct. This shall involve us reading this Code of Conduct and signing and dating this.
- We shall need to be aware of how to report a child safeguarding concern. The Child Safeguarding Complaint Handling Policy and Reporting Procedure provides details and processes for this, and following Sr Monica's YouTube, this shall be uploaded on SPIRIT and SOSJ public website. Additionally, the Child Safety Reporting Process Flowchart and the Child Safety Reporting Forms are available now on SPIRIT and the SOSJ public website. We have also added to SPIRIT, the Child Safeguarding Lines of Authority and Accountability Flowchart. Again, we don't need to remember every detail of these forms and documents, we just need to be able to know of their existence and how to access the information about how to make a child safeguarding report if and when we need to do so.
- We shall need to engage in the safeguarding on-line training once this is available and any other safeguarding training which may be delivered from the Safeguarding and Professional Standards Team.
- We shall need to keep abreast of safeguarding news via our Regional newsletters, staff meetings, safeguarding updates / news items, and under the 'Safeguarding News' heading under 'Safeguarding' pod on SPIRIT.
- We shall need to be familiar with the Safeguarding pod as contained on SPIRIT and the SOSJ public website.
- Lay employees need to continue to have safeguarding reflected in our future Performance Planning Reviews.

As always, I invite you to contact me via phone, email, or in person should you have any safeguarding questions or matters you would like to discuss.

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