



Supporting Survivors of Clerical Sexual Abuse and their Families

Through its Safeguarding Office, the Spiritan Congregation wants to reach out to survivors and their families who are seeking pathways of recovery and new life.

The National Board for Safeguarding Children in the Catholic Church in Ireland (NBSCCCI) states that each Bishop or Religious Superior should appoint a Support Person to be available to those who make an allegation/disclosure of abuse.

Jane Ferguson is the person appointed by the Spiritans to be available to those who make an allegations/disclosure of abuse and their families. Her role is to assist, where appropriate, with communication between the child or adult making an allegation/disclosure and the Designated Officer, to facilitate the child or adult in gaining access to information and help and to represent their concerns during the inquiry process.

The Support Person for survivors and their families will:

- provide you with information on the support services available
- work with you to identify your pastoral needs at this time in your life
- offer a 'listening ear' to you and your family
- liaise between you, your family and the Spiritan Congregation
- attend Court hearings or other meetings where you would find a supportive presence useful
- arrange, if considered helpful, a meeting between you, your family and a representative of the Congregation
- inform the Spiritan Congregation of your concerns, needs, fears and expectations should you so wish
- represent you to the Designated Person (and if necessary the Advisory Panel) with specific reference to your needs and wishes