

This code describes the standards of conduct, behaviour and attitude expected of all church workers working with adults, including adults at risk, to ensure that you are providing a compassionate, caring and supportive environment.

Safeguarding adults at risk means protecting an adult's right to live in safety, free from abuse and neglect (14.7 of the Care and Support Statutory Guidance issued under the Care Act 2014). The safeguarding duties apply to an adult who:

- has care and support needs (whether or not the adult is being provided any services from the local authority or other statutory body to meet their needs) and;
- is experiencing, or at risk of, abuse or neglect; and
- as a result of those care and support needs is unable to protect themselves from either the risk of, or the experience of abuse or neglect.

In Wales, s126(1) of the Social Services and Well-being (Wales) Act 2014 defines an adult at risk as an adult who:

1. is experiencing or is at risk of abuse or neglect,
2. has needs for care and support (whether or not the authority is meeting any of those needs), and
3. as a result of those needs is unable to protect himself or herself against the abuse or neglect or the risk of it.

In Scotland, The Adult Support and Protection Act (Scotland) 2007 defines an adult at risk as a person aged 16 or over who:

- is unable to safeguard their own well-being, property, rights or other interests;
- is at risk of harm; and
- because they are affected by disability, mental disorder, illness or physical or mental infirmity, is more vulnerable to being harmed than adults who are not so affected.

All workers of the church should agree to the following code of conduct when working with adults. You are responsible for and have a duty to ensure that your conduct does not fall below the standards detailed in this code, which are also supported and detailed in the Care Act 2014 (14.1.99) and the principles of Adult Support and Protection revised code of practice in Scotland

- Ask your leader/supervisor for guidance if you feel inadequately prepared to carry out any aspect of your role.
- Tell your leader/supervisor about any issues that might affect your ability to perform your role.
- Always establish and maintain clear and appropriate boundaries in your relationships with people.
- Never accept any offers of loans, gifts or benefits from anyone you are supporting or anyone close to them.
- Comply with United Reformed Church (URC) policies and procedures.
- Tell your leader/supervisor or person in charge of safeguarding if you are concerned that

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