

## Northern Ireland Photographic Association

# Policy for Safeguarding Children and Adults at Risk or in Need of Protection

### Introduction

1. The Northern Ireland Photographic Association (the Association) is committed to policies which promote good practice and protect children and vulnerable adults from harm.
  - *A child*, for these purposes, is defined as anyone aged under 18 years.
  - *An adult at risk* is; a person aged 18 or over whose exposure to harm through abuse, exploitation or neglect may be increased by their:
    - Personal characteristics; and / or
    - Life circumstances.
  - *An adult in need of protection* is; a person aged 18 or over whose exposure to harm through abuse, exploitation or neglect may be increased by their:
    - Personal characteristics; and / or
    - Life circumstances; and
    - Who is unable to protect their own wellbeing, property, assets, rights or other interests; and
    - Where the action or inaction of another person or persons is causing or likely to cause him / her to be harmed.
2. The Association is committed to making sure that children and adults at risk or in need of protection are protected and kept safe from harm while they are engaged in all formal or informal activities organised by affiliated clubs.
3. Members of clubs which are affiliated to the Association accept and recognise their responsibilities to develop awareness of the issues which may cause children or adults at risk or in need of protection harm.

### Aims of the Safeguarding Children and Adults at Risk Or In Need Of Protection Policy

4. To demonstrate the commitment of the Association, and its affiliated clubs, to provide and maintain an environment that protects children or adults at risk or in need of protection from harm, as well as protecting the Association, and its members from potential allegations.
5. To ensure that affiliated clubs, and their members, are familiar with the Association's-Safeguarding Policy.

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6. To ensure affiliated clubs, and their members, adopt safeguarding guidelines, through a code of behaviour, detailed in appendix 1 of this document.
7. To share information about concerns with relevant agencies and involving parents and children appropriately.
8. To take appropriate action in response to safeguarding issues which may involve affiliated clubs or their members.

### Definitions of Abuse

9. All members of affiliated clubs should be aware that 'abuse' may occur when the behaviour of someone in a position of greater power than a child or adults at risk or in need of protection harm. The common denominator of all forms of abuse is that it makes the person feel bad and worthless. Because people may be abused in a number of ways, the harm caused cannot always be easily categorised.
  - Neglect - the actual or likely persistent or significant neglect of a child or adults at risk or in need of protection, or the failure to protect them from exposure to any kind of danger.
  - Physical - actual or likely deliberate physical injury to a child or adults at risk or in need of protection or wilful or neglected failure to prevent physical injury or suffering.
  - Sexual - actual or likely sexual exploitation of a child or adults at risk or in need of protection. The involvement of adults at risk or in need of protection to sexual images, acts or language.
  - Emotional - actual or likely significant or persistent emotional ill-treatment or rejection, resulting in severe adults at risk or in need of protection.

### Bullying

10. A child or adults at risk or in need of protection who is bullied may be suffering from any type of abuse. Bullying may take many forms, but the main types are; physical (e.g. hitting, kicking, theft), verbal (e.g. sectarian / racist remarks, name-calling) and indirect, such as spreading rumours

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## APPENDIX 1

### Code of Behaviour for Safeguarding Children and Adults at Risk Or In Need Of Protection

The Northern Ireland Photographic Association recognises that it is not practical to provide definitive instructions that would apply to all situations at all times whereby members of affiliated clubs come into contact with children or adults at risk or in need of protection and to guarantee their protection or that of club members.

However, below are the standards of behaviour required of affiliated club members in order to fulfil their role in the application of a Safeguarding Policy. This code should assist in the protection of both children, adults at risk or in need of protection and club members.

Members of affiliated clubs **must** implement the Safeguarding Policy and procedures at all times.

Members of affiliated clubs must not:

- Have children / adults at risk or in need of protection in their own vehicle.
  - Where circumstances require such transportation in their vehicle, another adult / parent must also travel in the vehicle.
  - It is essential that there is adequate insurance for the vehicle to cover any transporting in connection with the activities of the club.
  - In extreme emergencies (for medical purposes) where it is required to transport a child / adult at risk or in need of protection on their own, it is essential that the parent / carer is notified immediately.
- Take a child / adult at risk or in need of protection to the toilet unless another adult is present or has been made aware (this should include a parent, if present)
- Spend time alone with a child / adults at risk or in need of protection his or her own. If members find themselves in this situation, make sure that they may be clearly observed by others.
- Engage in rough, physical games including horseplay with children / adults at risk or in need of protection.
- Allow or engage in inappropriate touching of any kind.
  - The main principles of touch are:
    - Touch should always be in response to the person's need.
    - Touch should always be appropriate to the age and stage of development of the child / adult at risk or in need of protection.

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- Touch should always be with a person's permission
- Do things of a personal nature for children / adults at risk or in need of protection that they can do for themselves or that their parent / carer can do for them.
- Physically restrain a child unless the restraint is to prevent physical injury of the child / other children / themselves / others / visitors / other club members or yourself.
  - In all circumstances physical restraint must be appropriate and reasonable, otherwise the action can be defined as assault.
- Make sexually suggestive comments to or within earshot of a child / adult at risk or in need of protection
- Expose a child / adult at risk or in need of protection to sexually explicit images.
- Involve a child / adult at risk or in need of protection as models or participants in inappropriately explicit photo shoots.

The Northern Ireland Photographic Association may, from time-to-time, amend the above policy, to take account of the wishes of the Annual General Meeting.

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