

Safeguarding Team

Safeguarding Coordinator: Sue Anderson

Deputy Safeguarding Coordinators: Ian Forgie & Alastair McLellan

Mearns Free Church activities must be safe for all who come into contact with them especially for those who are vulnerable – this includes children (persons under the age of 18) and adults who are vulnerable by virtue of disability or mental and/or physical health or circumstances (that can be temporary or permanent, such as bereavement).

All in our fellowship who are involved in our church activities with potentially vulnerable participants must be approved by our Kirk Session and have PVG certification from Disclosure Scotland arranged through the Free Church. It is essential that all with PVG certification are familiar with the Free Church's safeguarding policy [[Safeguarding – Free Church of Scotland](#)] and undertake the Free Church's safeguarding training [[Safeguarding Training Booking – Free Church of Scotland](#)].

WHEN YOU NEED TO TAKE ACTION:

1. If you suspect or witness harm or abuse of a vulnerable person, or
2. If someone raises a concern that a vulnerable person is or maybe experiencing abuse.

Note: it is better to err on the side of caution even if it turns out that there is no harm or abuse.

WHAT YOU NEED TO DO:

1. REPORT: immediately and without delay let the Safeguarding team know.

Contact details: Phone: 0141 474 1959
Email: safeguarding@mearnsfree.org

Note: if you phone or email the safeguarding team – you will receive an acknowledgement within 24 hours.

2. RECORD: asap write down your suspicions and the reasons for them. If you are reporting a concern that was raised with you, use, as far as possible, exactly what was said. Do not investigate the matter yourself – this is the responsibility of the Safeguarding team in the first instance.

IF IN DOUBT ABOUT WHAT TO DO – DISCUSS WITH THE SAFEGUARDING TEAM.

Reporting any other concerns

If you want to raise any concerns about your experience in Mearns Free Church (unrelated to safeguarding, for which the process is outlined above) please speak to either the Minister – Scott Kirkland, the Associate Minister – Scott Hamilton or the Session Clerk – Alastair McLellan.