

WHAT TO DO IF – I AM WORRIED ABOUT THE SAFETY OF AN ADULT

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The church definition of a 'vulnerable' adult is:

A person aged 18 or over whose ability to protect himself or herself from violence, abuse, neglect or exploitation is significantly impaired through physical or mental disability, illness, old age, emotional fragility, distress, or otherwise; and for that purpose, the reference to being impaired is to being temporarily or indefinitely impaired.

Please note that some adults may not consider themselves vulnerable but may be vulnerable to being abused by individuals in positions of leadership and responsibility

Respond well to the victim/survivor. If it is a direct disclosure, ensure they feel listened to and taken seriously. Explain what will happen next and check out support requirements. They should be informed that the information they disclose may be shared with the statutory agencies, if there is any current risk to children, young people or vulnerable adults. Confidentiality should never be promised to anyone disclosing a concern or making an allegation. Only tell those who need to know.

Emergency: If you are worried that a vulnerable adult is in immediate danger of significant or serious harm or a crime has been committed, you should follow this advice:

- Call the police or an ambulance on 999

Non-emergency: If you are worried about a vulnerable adult but you do not think they are at risk of immediate harm you should seek advice. If you think a crime has been committed and it is not an emergency, then contact the police on 101.

Discuss your concerns with the:

- Parish / Benefice Safeguarding Officer (unless they are subject of the concern) or
- A member of the clergy (unless they are subject of the concerns) they must contact the Diocesan Safeguarding Adviser (DSA) or Assistant DSA.
- DSA or Assistant DSA directly

Please click the link below to view the flowchart listed under downloads:

www.peterborough-diocese.org.uk/church-resources-safeguarding/what-to-do-if-

You can also speak with the Adult Social Care team for your area and be guided by their advice:

- Northamptonshire Adult Social Care: Online only: [https://northamptonshire-self.achieveservice.com/service/Make a request report a concern or abuse to adult social care?Are you a professional or a customer=Professional#_ga=2.235304129.1110837585.1536920119-967502415.1501665563](https://northamptonshire-self.achieveservice.com/service/Make_a_request_report_a_concern_or_abuse_to_adult_social_care?Are_you_a_professional_or_a_customer=Professional#_ga=2.235304129.1110837585.1536920119-967502415.1501665563)
- Peterborough Adult Social Care: 01733 747474
- Rutland Adult Social Care: 01572 758 341 or online: <https://www.rutland.gov.uk/my-services/health-and-family/adult-social-care/report-a-concern-for-an-adult/>

If a disclosure is made against a named person **do not** make contact with that person. Seek advice from the DSA or statutory agencies.

If you are concerned about someone you know, and it is safe to do so, speak with them and explain why you are concerned. Listen to what they say and ask what they would like you to do about the concern. Always try to get them to agree to getting help – but if they don't agree a referral still may need to be made anyway (*if a crime has been or is being committed or someone is at risk of significant harm*).

Remember: If you are an incumbent or a PSO and a safeguarding concern has been reported to you, or have contacted the statutory agencies directly, to let the DSA team know what has happened download and complete a concern form from: www.peterborough-diocese.org.uk/church-resources-safeguarding/what-to-do-if- and email it to Bev Huff at: bev.huff@peterborough-diocese.org.uk