



Practice Update: SA Mandated Notifications

Information for employees, volunteers and community members in South Australia

Concerns about risk of harm or neglect to a child or young person

SA Mandated Notifications

- Guidelines on when and how to make a notification

Optional reporting of concerns by community members

- Guidelines on when and how to make a report

Duty of Care to a child or young person to provide ongoing support

Information for employees or volunteers in the Seventh-day Adventist Church

In South Australia
including ministers of religion and
volunteers appointed to roles in the church

If one of the above conditions apply to you then please note;

A. You are a mandated notifier

Mandated Notifications = we keep children safe by stopping people from harming them

This means you will need to understand both when and how to report.

[<When to Report>](#)

[<How to Report>](#)

Further Information

Reporting Obligations

[<Useful links>](#)

[<Reporting summary>](#)

B. **Optional reporting** is available for any other community members who have concerns the about risk of harm or neglect for a child or young person.

[<Optional Reporting -- further info>](#)

C. Ongoing support for children and young persons at risk of harm or neglect

The ongoing care of children at risk is a community responsibility not just a problem that can be transferred to government agencies. A church community has a duty of care to a child at risk of harm or neglect. For further information on how the Seventh-day Adventist church will provide ongoing support for these children see [Ongoing Support](#)

Mandatory Notifiers

Under the ***Children and Young People (Safety) Act 2017 (SA)***, the following people are mandated notifiers:

1. ministers of religion
2. employees or volunteers in an organisation formed for religious or spiritual purposes

When to report

A mandatory notifier needs to report when there:

- are reasonable grounds to suspect harm and there
- is a risk of harm to a child (0 – 15 years) or young person (16 or 17 years)
- that relates to
 - physical abuse or harm
 - neglect (supervision, physical shelter or environment, food, hygiene and clothing, health care, persistent absenteeism)
 - sexual abuse
 - problematic sexual behaviour (child: peer on peer)
 - psychological or emotional harm
 - parent or carer concerns (substance abuse, mental health concerns, domestic or family violence)

For further information on Indicators of abuse or neglect see [Indicators](#)

A mandated notifier must make the notification as soon as is reasonably practicable after forming the suspicion.

Helpful online assessment tool

The South Australia Mandatory Reporters Guide (SAMRG)

This assessment tool is part of the collaborative efforts of a group of South Australian Government departments in conjunction with other non-government agencies in South Australia. The document is a .pdf but contains decision trees for each of the types of abuse or harm listed above and will guide the mandatory notifier through a series of decisions that results in advice on whether reporting is appropriate in these circumstances. The Guide includes

- | | | |
|----|--|---------|
| 1. | A checklist of information need to make a report | Page 6 |
| 2. | Tips for selecting the appropriate decision tree | Page 11 |
| 3. | Various Decision trees starting from | Page 12 |

The Mandatory Reporter Guide can be found at:

[<Mandatory Reporter Guide>](#)

How to report

The South Australian Government has developed the Child Abuse Report Line (CARL) to receive reports

On completion of the appropriate mandatory reporter guide decision tree the guide will indicate if a report is required. This is indicated by the statement:

Report to CARL

All **serious concerns** must be reported using the Report line (CARL). Non-serious reports can also be done using eCARL.

Reporting can be done:

1. by phone:

CARL: 13 14 78

2. Online: eCARL

This mechanism requires the creation of an account. Link to [Create an Account](#) (external Link)

Once the account is created abuse can be reported here. Link to [Report child abuse](#) (external Link)

Information about eCARL. Link to [eCARL](#) (external Link)

When is a concern serious?

Serious concerns include when you suspect a child or infant is in imminent or immediate danger of:

- serious harm
- serious injury
- chronic neglect
- or when a child is in care of the department and you suspect they are being abused or neglected.

Reasonable grounds

Reasonable grounds to report suspected abuse and/or neglect may include:

- when your own observations of a particular child's behaviour and/or injuries lead you to suspect a child is, or may be, at risk of harm
- when a child tells you they have been harmed
- a child telling you that they know of someone who has been harmed (they may possibly be referring to themselves)
- when your own observations about the behaviour of the child, or their adult caregivers, give you cause to suspect that a child is being, or is at risk of being harmed
- when you hear about it from someone who is in a position to provide reliable information, perhaps a relative or friend, neighbour or sibling of a child who is at risk.

Optional Reporting

Any member of the public who has reasonable suspicion that a child is being abused or neglected is encouraged to report this suspicion to the Child Abuse Report Line. (CARL).

You may seek advice from your local church ARO or Adsafes about your concern and how to make a report.

Information needed

For a list of information to include in the report see [Information needed](#)

[<When to Report>](#)

[<How to Report>](#)

Ongoing care and support for victims of abuse

The Seventh-day Adventist Church has a duty of care to the children and young persons in its community who are at risk of harm or neglect.

A person making a report in conjunction with the church leaders should consider how the community can continue to respond to the needs of the child and their family. While it is a requirement for Mandatory Notifiers to report risk of harm and neglect to the appropriate government agency appropriately reporting this risk within the Church's child protection network would allow for coordinated community support for the child and their family. The wellbeing of each child in the church community is a responsibility that the community shares with the responsible government agencies.

To this end the Seventh-day Adventist Church has established a **protection team** that consists of the Adsafes Responsible Officer(ARO), the Adsafes Compliance Assistance at the **local church level** an Adsafes Responsible Officer at the **Local Conference** and a team of Case Workers at the Sydney offices of Adsafes.

Persons appointed to roles in the church who have concerns and need to make a report to CARL are encouraged to:

1. Appropriately seek advice from the leaders of the local church or
2. Appropriately seek advice from Adsafes.
3. Once the report has been made ensure that the protection team has been informed. This will allow early intervention support to be arranged for the child in conjunction and with the approval of the relevant child protection agency.

Where to get help or further information

Adsafe

Adsafe has been set-up as a child and vulnerable person protection resource for the Seventh-day Adventist Church and its entities. Adsafe is here to provide advice to you if you have any concerns around these matters. Adsafe can be contacted using one of the following means:

Phone: Australia 1800 220 468
 New Zealand 0800 442 458

 Internet Adsafe.org.au

 email info@adsafe.org.au

Mandated Notifications

Department for Child Protection	<website>
Child Abuse Report Line	131 478
Members of the general public	<Should I report a child at risk>
Mandated Notifiers	<Report child abuse or neglect> <Mandated notifiers and their role> <Indicators of abuse or neglect> <Preparing to report child abuse> <Responding to a child about abuse or neglect> <What not to report as child abuse or neglect>

Overview of Mandated Notification Requirements in South Australia

<p>Mandated Notifiers</p> <p>Risk of Harm or Neglect to a child or young person This is about a child or young person being at risk of harm from a individual</p>
<p>Legislation</p> <p>Children and Young People (Safety) Act 2017 (SA) Agency: Department for Child Protection (DCP)</p>
<p>Reporting What?</p> <p>Risk of Significant Harm relating to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • physical abuse or harm • neglect (supervision, physical shelter or environment, food, hygiene and clothing, health care, persistent absenteeism) • sexual abuse • problematic sexual behaviour (child: peer on peer) • psychological or emotional harm • parent or carer concerns (substance abuse, mental health concerns, domestic or family violence)
<p>Relates to a suspicion that harm is or may be caused to a child (0-15 years) or young person (16 and 17 years)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A person reports because they have reasonable grounds to suspect harm • suspicion is formed about a child in the course of their engagement in child related work.
<p>Essentially</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • You may seek advice from your ARO or Adsafe about your concern. • You with the help of the ARO or Adsafe completes the SA Mandatory Reporters Guide (SAMRG) and follow its direction about whether to report • If reported to CARL, also notify the ARO or Adsafe to co-ordinate ongoing support if needed • DCP will assess and may choose to intervene • DCP have authority to intervene