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Safeguarding Department – STAY AWAY POLICY – August 2024.

Scouting Ireland is committed to providing a safe and secure environment for all individuals involved in our programs and activities. Implementation of the 'stay-away' from involvement in Scouting Ireland is intended to protect all involved. It helps to ensure that any assessment or investigation is as fair as possible by preventing situations where objectivity could be risked, or further allegations could be made.

This policy applies to all individuals associated with Scouting Ireland, including employees, Scouters, other volunteers and youth members.

A Stay Away can be implemented by the Safeguarding Team where at the point of referral to the safeguarding department a decision to suspend cannot be made due to insufficient, disputed, or inconsistent information. Scouting Irelands 'Stay Away' policy aims to prevent situations where there may be a risk of harm, harassment or inappropriate behaviour.

Individuals requested to 'stay away' from Scouting via this policy must have no contact, whether direct or indirect, with youth members. Non-compliance with a 'stay away request' from the Safeguarding Department may result in a Suspension without prejudice or disciplinary action as appropriate.

A 'Stay-away' must only be used:

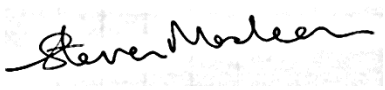
a. when an allegation is made that a person has behaved in a way that may be considered a breach of the Scouts' Safeguarding Policy or safeguarding code of behaviour/conduct/Cosaint card guidelines.
b. when a concern is raised regarding a connected person that may suggest unsuitability for a working with youth members.
c. where information is received from a statutory agency relating to concerns raised about a connected person.
d. Where a member is unduly non-compliant with vetting and Safeguarding Training requirements

The safeguarding team must ensure that the individual will 'stay-away' from all scouting activities for a period of two weeks, or until the member is compliant with vetting/ Safeguarding Training requirements. The safeguarding team must ensure that:

a. The relevant Scout line manager for example Group Leader /Commissioner has been consulted
b. A member of the safeguarding team communicates the 'stay-away' to the relevant parties
c. Terms of the stay-away are sent to the individual being requested to 'stay away' in writing
d. The individual will be offered an independent liaison contact for support
e. Following the stay-away period, the safeguarding team must make a decision to extend the stay-away by two weeks or end the stay-away. A stay-away must not last longer than four weeks. (With the exception of vetting/Safeguarding Training compliance, which will mean the stay away remains in place until the member is fully compliant.
f. Confidentiality: Information related to a Scouting Ireland 'Stay Away', including reports, and individuals involved will be treated with strict confidentiality, disclosed only on a need-to-know basis. Any breach of confidentiality may result in disciplinary actions.

Scouting Ireland will provide training on the Stay Away Policy to all staff, Scouters, other volunteers, and relevant individuals involved in our programs and activities.

This Stay Away Policy will be reviewed periodically to ensure compliance with legal requirements and Scouting Irelands needs. Any updates or revisions to the policy will be communicated to all relevant individuals.



Steven Maclean
Safeguarding Manager