



PREVENTION

WHAT CAN STAFF DO TO PREVENT AND RESPOND TO HARM?

- Value you as a person with your own unique experiences and needs.
- Communicate with you in a way that you understand. This helps you to make informed choices about your care and support.
- Work in partnership with you to identify risks and put a plan together to try to prevent these risks.
- Know you well enough to recognise signs that you might be at risk of harm and talk to you about it.
- Respond quickly to any concerns that you have or to any risks that are identified.



PROPORTIONALITY

WHAT CAN YOU DO IF YOU HAVE A SAFEGUARDING CONCERN?

Ask questions and voice any concerns you may have about safeguarding.

If you are concerned that you or someone you know is at risk or is being harmed, then you should talk to a staff member that you trust. They can support you to do something about your concerns.



PARTNERSHIP

CONTACT US

For more information please contact:

(01) 8147400
standards@hiqa.ie

or

MHC team
(01) 6362400
info@mhcirl.ie



The National Standards and other supporting material are available to download from www.hiqa.ie or www.mhcirl.ie



YOUR GUIDE TO the National Standards for Adult Safeguarding



A RIGHTS-BASED APPROACH

WHAT IS THE PURPOSE OF THESE NATIONAL STANDARDS?

The Health Information and Quality Authority (HIQA) and the Mental Health Commission (MHC) have written National Standards for Adult Safeguarding.

These standards show staff who provide care and support how they can work in a way that reduces the risk of harm to you and other people using the service.

The standards also tell staff how they can prevent harm from happening in the first place, how to identify if harm is happening, and when you might need extra support.

WHAT IS ADULT SAFEGUARDING?

You have a right to be safe and not to be harmed when you are using any health or social care service.

Adult safeguarding is about your service:

- preventing harm from happening to you and others when you are using these services,
- taking action if harm does occur,
- promoting your right to privacy, dignity and respect,
- involving you in decisions about your care and support.



ACCOUNTABILITY

WHAT ARE THE DIFFERENT TYPES OF HARM?

Harm comes in many forms and affects people differently. However, harm always impacts on the rights that you are entitled to enjoy.

Harm can be emotional, physical, sexual or financial, or result from neglect.

Some types of harm are harder to recognise than others. These can include:



not getting the support you need to live a full life



staff members acting aggressively or allowing others to behave this way



being left out of decisions that are important to you



not having privacy



not having access to your belongings.

