

INTERIM POLICY: BLEMISHED CRB DISCLOSURES IN RELIGIOUS CONGREGATIONS

CRB Disclosures are currently processed by the CoR Counter-Signatory Office.

It's staff are not qualified to undertake risk assessments of blemished Disclosures, nor is this their role.

This task properly belongs to Child Protection Co-ordinators (CPCs) in Religious Congregations. However, Religious CPCs have received only minimal training on the CRB process, and none on undertaking risk assessments.

Most of them are not professionally qualified in Child Protection.

This situation leaves the Church exposed to the risk that blemished Disclosures are not processed according to legislation and CRB policy; individuals may be wrongly appointed, placing children and vulnerable adults at potential risk, or wrongly excluded, in breach of policy on the recruitment of ex-offenders.

Until training for Religious CPCs is provided, this policy requires that in all cases where a blemished Disclosure Certificate is received at the CoR Counter-Signatory Office, the receiving CPC is required to contact COPCA whose staff will ensure that appropriate advice and support is available to the CPC responsible for undertaking the risk assessment procedure set out in Sections 5 and 6 of the COPCA CRB Policies and Procedures Document, and the associated professional judgements, as well as ensuring that a CP Commission is engaged in the process as appropriate.

The CoR Counter-Signatory Office will pass the details of blemished Disclosures to COPCA simultaneously, to ensure that advice is being sought.

This policy will be reviewed in January 2007.

Eileen Shearer
Director of COPCA
10th April 2006