

## **Counselling Services**

for people who have been abused.

**Faoiseamh** is an organisation which provides telephone counselling and a counselling and psychotherapy referral service for people who have been sexually, physically, or emotionally abused by priests or religious. Our aim is to ensure that the people who contact us receive the best possible help and support in dealing with the events of the past.

Faoiseamh works with people in Ireland, the UK, including Northern Ireland, and a small number of other countries around the world.

The Faoiseamh Helpline was set up to offer assistance to those who have been abused by a priest or member of the religious community.

To that end, we currently provide the following services:

- Free access to a helpline staffed by experienced Telephone Counsellors. This operates on Monday and Wednesdays from 11.00 am – 8.00 pm, and on Fridays from 11.00 am to 4.00 pm. The number is Freephone 1800 331234 (Rep. of Ireland) and Freephone 0800 973272 (Northern Ireland and UK).
- Contact with accredited psychotherapists in your area for face to face psychotherapy, with fees arising being paid directly to your psychotherapist by Faoiseamh.
- Provisions of access to psychotherapists of immediate family members who may also be eligible by Faoiseamh.

### **Staff**

Faoiseamh is staffed by lay professionals and referrals are only made to lay psychotherapists and counsellors.

### **Registering with Faoiseamh**

To register with Faoiseamh for funding for counselling and psychotherapy, you need to telephone the helpline. The telephone Counsellors are fully trained lay people, and they understand how difficult it can be to speak about painful experiences. They will try to make the call as easy as possible for you. To establish that you are eligible for funding, the Telephone Counsellor will need a number of details about your experience, such as the location where the abuse took place and the congregation or diocese involved.

If you find it too hard to make that first call, you can ask your counsellor or another trusted person contact us on your behalf.

### **Reporting Abuse**

In order to protect other children from abuse, we encourage everybody who contacts us to report their experiences to the health services. If you decide to make a complaint, we can support you in this process. You can also contact your nearest PSNI or Garda Station which are 24 hour manned

### **Other Support Agencies**

National Board for Safeguarding Children in the Catholic Church Ph. 015053018

HSE (ROI) National Counselling Service Ph. 1800235237.

Irish Association for Counselling and Psychotherapy (ROI) Ph. 0035312723427

ISPCC/Childline (ROI) Ph 1800666 666

Rian (ROI) Ph. 1800234117

Dochas (ROI) Family Resource Centre, Monaghan Ph 047 71640

Nexus Institute, Enniskillen (NI) Ph. 02866320046

Aisling Centre (NI) Enniskillen Ph 028 66325811

NSPCC (NI) Omagh Ph 028 82248929

Duty and Assessment Team (NI) Community Services Enniskillen Ph 02866344000

Out of Hours Co-ordinator (NI) Erne Hospital Ph 02866382 000