



Church of Ireland

GUIDELINES ON HEALTH AND SAFETY FOR PARISHES IN REPUBLIC OF IRELAND

Introduction

The following guidelines are intended for Church of Ireland parishes located in the Republic of Ireland and is applies to clergy, staff, volunteers, visitors and contractors.

Management of Health and Safety in the parish is the responsibility of the Select Vestry. Even if you do not employ people there may be certain aspects of the **Safety Health and Welfare at Work Act, 2005** which would apply whilst other principles contained in it are considered best practice to ensure the safety of all those who are involved with your parish and its activities.

The table below is a summary of the key principles:

Republic of Ireland - Safety Health and Welfare at Work Act, 2005	
Provide a safe workplace: you must provide a safe environment that is free from risks to health and safety as far as reasonably practicable.	Safety statement: you are required to prepare a written safety statement that outlines the hazards and risks, along with the measures in place to control and minimize these risks.
Risk assessments: you must assess and manage the risks by conducting risk assessments and implementing control measures to eliminate or reduce these risks.	Training and information: you must provide adequate training, information, instruction, and supervision to ensure health and safety at work.
Health and welfare facilities: you must provide adequate facilities for welfare, including access to first aid, hygiene facilities, and a safe working environment.	Consultation: you must consult with employees/volunteers and their representatives on matters relating to health and safety in the workplace.
Cooperation: you must cooperate with other users sharing the space to ensure the health and safety of all	Reporting accidents and incidents: you are required to report accidents, incidents, and dangerous occurrences to the relevant authorities.
Compliance with regulations: you must comply with all relevant health and safety regulations and standards to ensure the well-being of everyone.	
Failure to comply with the requirements of the Safety, Health and Welfare at Work Act 2005 can result in legal penalties, fines, and potential civil liability for employers	

A Sample Safety Statement and further advice and guidance on Risk Management and can be found on Ecclesiastical Insurances website at the link below:-

[Ecclesiastical Insurance](#)