



Work Instruction: Guidelines for Response to Known Sex Offenders

Care for the vulnerable

One of our important God given tasks is to care for and protect the powerless and vulnerable in our society (Isaiah 1:15-17 Deut 10:19-19; Matthew 25:31-46). Those who are abused by another person's sinful and often criminal behaviour must remain in the centre of all our thinking and actions. Our primary responsibility is to do everything in our power to keep such people safe. We need to find ways of continuing to care for perpetrators but our care for the vulnerable cannot be overshadowed or replaced by our care for perpetrators.

Known Sexual Offenders

Should a Pastor or member of a LCA congregation become aware of a person involved in the congregation or worshipping with the congregation, who has a history of some sexual offence (including a complaint of a sexual offence), that person is required to immediately report this to their Pastor and/or the Professional Standards Officer in their District. After a confidential and sensitive investigation, details will need to be shared with the church's insurers. The insurers will then notify the church as to whether they need to exclude this person from the cover offered by their company. If this is deemed necessary, their name will be entered on the Insurance Company's Known Sexual Offender Register.

Our Response

As we continue to minister to such a person our only responsible response is to do all we can to mitigate the extreme risk this person now brings on the whole LCA. We also must not forget our responsibility to all vulnerable people in our care. There is a high recidivist rate for known sex offenders and the consequence of any offence of this nature is usually catastrophic. This means that for all practical purposes any person on the Known Sexual Offender register cannot be allowed to participate in the public life of a congregation. They cannot be permitted to attend public worship or any other group which is open to all members.

In continuing to minister to a person on the Known Sexual Offenders register, the Professional Standards Unit in consultation with the Insurers and acceptance by District Church Councils, Pastors and congregations may consider other ways of bringing God's Word and Sacraments into his/her life. Possible options include; private home worship; electronic reproduction of Congregational Worship; live electronic links to Congregational Sunday Worship; regular pastoral visits by people aware of the risks involved.

Any congregation wishing to advocate on behalf of a known sex offender and seek to alter this response is required to obtain the permission of District Church Council by working through the Professional Standards Unit.

Scenarios

Below are some scenarios indicating the types of activity deemed to place people on the KSO Register and therefore outside the church's insurance cover.

Scenarios

No.	Scenarios	Professional Standards Units Informs Insurance Company	Area requiring specific investigation	Likely Response by Insurance Company	Necessary response by church pending Risk Management Decision
1	Ms A returns from a 10 year sentence for a sexual offence	Yes		Name entered in KSO Register	Excluded from public Worship
2	Ms B was recently investigated for a sexual offence but was not charged	Yes	Was complaint found to be unfounded or malicious?	Name entered in KSO Register	Excluded from public Worship
3	Mr C who 25/50 years ago went to jail for a sexual offence	Yes		Name entered in KSO Register	Excluded from public Worship
4	Mr D who 25/ 50 years ago was investigated for a sexual offence but was never charged.	Yes	Was complaint found to be unfounded or malicious?	Name entered in KSO Register	Excluded from public Worship
5	Mr E who admits that 25/ 50 years ago he interfered with a three young boys. There was no investigation at the time.	Yes		Name entered in KSO Register	Excluded from public Worship
6	16 year old Mr F was investigated by the police for sexual abuse of a 15 year old girl but was never charged.	Yes	Was complaint found to be unfounded or malicious?	Name entered in KSO Register	Excluded from public Worship
7	16 year old Mr G admits to sexual activity with a 15 year old girl but was never investigated	Yes		Name entered in KSO Register	Excluded from public Worship
8	Police investigate 10 year old Master H who was accused of sexual abuse of a 5 year old girl at school.	Yes	Was complaint found to be unfounded or malicious? Could it be a one off inappropriate exploration?	Not enough information	Counselling for parents and child Strict protocols put in place
9	Mr I is charged and convicted of being	Yes		Name entered in	Excluded from public Worship

	in possession of child pornography			KSO Register	
10	Mr J is investigated but not charged with possessing pornography	Yes	Was child pornography involved?	Name entered in KSO Register	Excluded from public Worship
11	Mr K admits to being addicted to child pornography on the internet	Yes		Name entered in KSO Register	Excluded from public Worship
12	Mr L admits to actively seeking and viewing pornography on the internet not including child pornography.	No	Is this person an employee or office bearer of the church?	Name not entered in KSO Register	Serious action including possible termination of job or role in congregation
13	Mr L is convicted for indecent exposure	Yes		Name entered in KSO Register	Excluded from public Worship