



Guidance Document: Risk Assessment and Mitigation Strategies for Safe Environments

The emotional, physical, and spiritual safety, well-being and dignity of Children and Adults at Risk is an integral part of the teachings and values of the Catholic Church. Risk assessments and mitigation strategies for activities involving Children and/or Adults at Risk are an important safeguarding strategy used to assist us to create safe environments for all participants.

Step 1

- **Identify the activity and the risks:** What could happen, how could it happen?

Step 2

- **Consequence of the risk:** What could happen as a result of the risk?

Step 3

- **Mitigation Strategies:** What mitigation strategies are already in place to minimise or control the risk and what further mitigation strategies could you put in place? Can the risks in fact be mitigated, and if not, should the relevant activity proceed?
- **Completed Risk Assessment to be signed off by Parish Priest/ Agency Head.**

Step 4

- **Consult and Share** the Risk Assessment and Mitigation Strategies with those involved in the activity, the workers including Volunteers, helpers, Children and Adults at Risk, for a safe and successful activity.

Step 5

- **Evaluate the treatment:** Did the mitigation strategies work? Is there more we need to do to create a Child-safe environment?
- Update your plan if improvements can be made for next time.