

Safeguarding Policy

A document setting out the Irish Acupuncture Register's expectations in relation to safeguarding children and vulnerable adults within clinical practice.

1. Purpose

This policy sets out expectations in relation to the welfare of children and vulnerable adults encountered in clinical practice.

Its purpose is to support lawful, alert, and proportionate responses to safeguarding concerns while recognising the limits of the practitioner's role.

2. Core safeguarding principle

Members should place the safety and welfare of children and vulnerable adults at the centre of decision-making where a credible safeguarding concern arises.

3. Scope and professional boundaries

Acupuncturists are not expected to investigate abuse or assume the role of statutory authorities. Their responsibility is to recognise concern, respond appropriately, record clearly, and report or escalate where necessary.

4. Responding and reporting

Where an immediate risk of serious harm is present, the practitioner should prioritise urgent safety, including emergency services or An Garda Síochána where appropriate.

Where there are reasonable grounds for concern, referral to Tusla or other appropriate safeguarding pathways should be considered in line with current Irish guidance.

5. Confidentiality and accountability

Confidentiality remains important but is not absolute. Information may be shared without consent where necessary to protect a child or vulnerable person from serious harm or where required by law.