

Dzogchen Beara – Vulnerable Adult Safeguarding Statement

1. Nature of Service

Dzogchen Beara provides the following services that engage with vulnerable adults:

- Spiritual care and meditation retreats
- Residential stays for individuals experiencing illness, bereavement, emotional distress, or disability
- One-to-one support at the Spiritual Care Centre
- Volunteering and community programmes that may include or support vulnerable adults

2. Principles to Safeguard Vulnerable Adults

Dzogchen Beara is committed to safeguarding all vulnerable adults who engage with our centre. Our approach is grounded in the Buddhist principles of love, compassion, and non-harm. Our principles include:

- The right of all adults to live a life free from abuse, harm, and neglect
- Respect for autonomy, privacy, dignity, and choice
- Awareness and prevention of abuse in all its forms
- Staff and volunteer accountability and training
- Person-centred and trauma-informed approaches
- Adherence to legal obligations and inter-agency collaboration

3. Risk Assessment

Risk Identified	Procedure in Place to Manage Risk
Emotional or spiritual exploitation of vulnerable adults	Garda vetting, training, clear boundaries, and staff supervision
Inadequate response to disclosures of harm or distress	Clear reporting procedure to DLP/Deputy DLP and onward referral to HSE
Inappropriate staff/volunteer conduct	Code of conduct, supervision, and complaints process
Failure to identify and report abuse	Safeguarding training, visible policy, and reporting contacts
Privacy and data protection breaches	Confidential record keeping and consent procedures
Lack of informed consent or overstepping of personal boundaries	Staff guidance and consent-based practice

4. Procedures

Our safeguarding procedures for vulnerable adults include:

- Garda vetting for all staff and volunteers in contact with vulnerable adults
- Ongoing safeguarding and boundaries training
- Defined roles for the Designated Liaison Person (DLP) and Deputy DLP
- Procedures for responding to and reporting abuse concerns to the HSE Safeguarding and Protection Team
- Confidential and accurate record-keeping
- Respect for personal data, privacy, and informed consent
- Clear process for handling complaints and whistleblowing
- Staff and volunteers must report any safeguarding concerns or suspicions of abuse to the Designated Liaison Person (DLP) or Deputy DLP. The DLP is responsible for referring the concern to the HSE Safeguarding and Protection Team, or to An Garda Síochána if there is immediate danger. This process follows the HSE's National Policy & Procedures (2014) for safeguarding adults at risk.

5. Mandated Persons

Where applicable, Dzogchen Beara maintains a list of staff or volunteers who may be considered mandated persons under relevant legislation. This list is overseen and kept up to date by the Designated Liaison Person (DLP). Those on the list are informed of their responsibilities, including the duty to report concerns and to cooperate with statutory agencies.

6. Implementation and Review

This statement is implemented as part of Dzogchen Beara's overall Safeguarding Policy and in line with HSE and best practice guidance. It is developed in accordance with the Health Act 2007 and the HSE's Safeguarding Vulnerable Persons at Risk of Abuse: National Policy & Procedures (2014), which provide the legal and procedural basis for adult safeguarding in Ireland. It will be reviewed every 2 years or sooner if service changes require.

Designated Liaison Person (DLP): Malcolm MacClancy – 086 389 7465 –
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