

**BILL NO. 3**

**Explanatory Memorandum**

Chapter XVI of the Constitution of the Church of Ireland makes provision for the child protection policy, *Safeguarding Trust*, which may be approved from time to time by the Standing Committee, to be implemented and adhered to by parishes, clergy and diocesan bodies of the Church.

In recent years, the concept of safeguarding has been extended to include ‘adults at risk of harm’ and ‘adults in need of protection’ (Northern Ireland legislation), and ‘vulnerable adults’ (in the Republic of Ireland guidance).

It is desirable that the same provisions in respect of implementation of and adherence to the policy *Adult Safeguarding* should be provided for in the Constitution as were previously put in place for the child protection policy, *Safeguarding Trust*.

REV CANON GILLIAN WHARTON  
MR GEOFFREY PERRIN

**BILL**

(at the request of the RCB and the Standing Committee)

**Bill To Amend Chapter XVI of the Constitution of the Church of Ireland (Safeguarding Policies)**

WHEREAS Chapter XVI of the Constitution deals with the provision of a policy for the safeguarding of children;

AND WHEREAS it is desirable, in consequence of legislation in Northern Ireland and good practice and guidance in the Republic of Ireland, for the Church of Ireland to adopt a policy to address adult safeguarding (referred to as ‘adults at risk of harm’ and ‘adults in need of protection’ in Northern Ireland and ‘vulnerable adults’ in the Republic of Ireland);

BE IT ENACTED by the Archbishops and Bishops and the clergy and laity of the Church of Ireland in General Synod assembled in Armagh in the year 2018 and by the authority of the same as follows:

1. ‘In Chapter XVI of the Constitution of the Church of Ireland, hereinafter referred to as ‘the said Chapter’, before the words MINISTRY WITH CHILDREN there shall be inserted the following:

‘SAFEGUARDING

PART I’

2. ‘That immediately after Section 2 of the said Chapter, there shall be inserted the following Sections:

PART II

MINISTRY WITH ADULTS

3. *Adult Safeguarding: The Church of Ireland Code of Good Practice*, approved by the Standing Committee of the General Synod and reported to the General Synod, hereinafter referred to as *Adult Safeguarding*, shall be implemented and adhered to throughout the Church of Ireland in the Church’s ministry with adults at risk of harm and adults in need of protection, also referred to as vulnerable adults in some legislation and guidance.
4. Each bishop and diocesan council shall ensure that *Adult Safeguarding: The Church of Ireland Code of Good Practice* be implemented and adhered to by all parishes, clergy and diocesan bodies within the diocese and in any diocesan activity.’