

Reporting Historical Offenses or Allegations to Police

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As per the Person of Concern Policy and Procedure for Affiliated Churches published in 2022, and in light of the new Queensland criminal codes, the Safeguarding Response Group takes a conservative view on reporting to the authorities the association of a person of concern with one of our affiliated churches. We highly recommend the church to report to police even when it is related to a historical offence or allegation. The following steps will help you with this task which will take no more than 5 minutes.

STEP 1

Call Queensland Police on 131 444 and state that you want to make a report of an historical offence or allegation.

STEP 2

As a guide, you may provide the following information:

"I am reporting an historical child sex offence or allegation pursuant to your obligations under section 229BC of the Criminal Code 1988 (Qld).

The **INSERT NAME** Church of Christ are aware that:

- a person has disclosed they have offended against a child/ren and this person is currently attending the **INSERT NAME** Church of Christ, located at **ADDRESS**.
- OR
- it is alleged that a person has historically committed a sexual offence/s against a child/ren, and this person is currently attending the **INSERT NAME** Church of Christ, located at **ADDRESS**.

Person of Concern: **PROVIDE NAME**

Address: **PROVIDE ADDRESS OR STATE IT IS UNKNOWN**

Date of Birth: **PROVIDE DoB OR STATE IT IS UNKNOWN**

We will implement a safety agreement and management plan to ensure the safety of children interacting with our community of faith.

Given the sensitivity of this report, I request that my identity and the church movement be withheld from disclosure to third parties.

Thank you for considering this information in confidence. Please contact me if I can be of assistance."

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In addition, you may be asked to state the date you learnt the person is a historical offender or has been subject of an allegation(s) and provide a short description of the church activities or programs with which the person is associated (e.g. Sunday morning church service, prayer group, etc).

STEP 3

You will receive a reference number, usually called a QP or QPrime number, and we ask that, (a) you file this for your records, and (b) you email this reference number to the CofCQ Safeguarding Response Group (SRG) at safeguarding@cofcqld.com.au together with a record of any actions you take in relation to the concerns i.e.: dates, who you spoke to, any advice you were provided etc.

At this point you can rest assured that you have discharged your duty to report that a Person of Concern is associated with your church.

STEP 4

If you haven't already, please complete the Concern Reporting Form – found at <https://www.cofc.com.au/churches/church-resources/safe-churches> – and email it to safeguarding@cofcqld.com.au. SRG, through the Safe Church Facilitator will advise you on the best course of action to discharge your duty to protect the children attending any activity or program delivered by or at your church.