



Church of Ireland

GUIDELINES ON HEALTH AND SAFETY FOR PARISHES IN NORTHERN IRELAND

Introduction

The following guidelines are intended for Church of Ireland parishes located in the Northern Ireland and applies to clergy, staff, volunteers, visitors and contractors.

Management of Health and Safety in the parish is the responsibility of the Select Vestry. Even if you do not employ people there may be certain aspects of **The Health and Safety at Work (Northern Ireland) Order 1978** which would apply whilst other principles contained in it are considered best practice to ensure the safety of all those who are involved with your parish and its activities.

The table below is a summary of the key principles:

The Health and Safety at Work (Northern Ireland) Order 1978	
General duties (Select Vestry): you have a general duty to ensure, as far as reasonably practicable, the health, safety, and welfare of all who use your premises	General duties (Users): Users must take reasonable care of their health and safety at work and that of others who may be affected by their actions.
Duties of persons in control of premises: Persons who have control of premises must ensure that the premises are safe and without risks to health.	Duty to prepare and revise a written statement of general policy: You should prepare a written statement of your health and safety policy and bring it to the attention of your employees.
Risk assessment: You must conduct risk assessments to identify and manage health and safety risks at your premises.	Health and safety arrangements: You must make arrangements for the effective planning, organization, control, monitoring, and review of health and safety measures.
Provision of information, instruction, training, and supervision: You must provide Users with necessary information, training, instruction, and supervision to ensure their health and safety.	Consultation: Users should consult with the Select Vestry or their representatives on health and safety matters.
Enforcement: The Order provides for the enforcement of health and safety regulations through inspection, enforcement notices, and prosecution.	Offenses and penalties: The Order sets out offenses and penalties for non-compliance with health and safety regulations, including fines and imprisonment.

A Sample Safety Statement and further advice and guidance on Risk Management and can be found on Ecclesiastical Insurances website at the link below:-

[Church Health & Safety Policy | Risk Management \(ecclesiastical.com\)](https://www.ecclesiastical.com)