

PRINCIPLES FOR A SCHEME WHICH PROVIDES PASTORAL CARE AND ASSISTANCE TO THOSE WHO HAVE BEEN SEXUALLY ABUSED BY CLERGY OR CHURCH WORKERS

This scheme will normally operate where the alleged abuser is deceased or no longer subject to the disciplinary process of the Church or after the completion of any disciplinary process.

A voluntary scheme should have these elements:

1. an application form that includes details of the financial, medical and personal consequences of the abuse;
2. the establishment that the complaint is encompassed by the scheme;
3. the offer of counselling and “emergency” assistance up to an agreed financial limit (where this has not already been offered);
4. the appointment of a support person (where this has not already been provided);
5. the investigation and determination of the complaint (where this has not already occurred);
6. the independent assessment of the financial and other care and assistance to be provided (up to a set limit);
7. the assessment must be fair and enable the person to speak with the assessor;
8. the assessment should permit the provision of expert medical or other advice at the request of the assessor or the diocese;
9. the offer to the person who has been abused of the care and assistance package which, if accepted, (after giving the person the opportunity to obtain legal advice) will result in the signing of a deed of release which will not contain any confidentiality clause.

(By resolution SC2009/3/037 of the General Synod Standing Committee 16-18 October 2009).