

BILL NO 2

Explanatory Memorandum

The care and protection of children is a priority for the Church. While clear, formal child protection guidelines in the form of *Safeguarding Trust: The Church of Ireland Code of Good Practice for Ministry with Children* have been in place in the Church of Ireland for almost ten years it is considered essential that the code should now be given formal recognition and constitutional standing by creating a new Chapter of the Constitution concerning Ministry with Children.

Accordingly, clause 1 seeks to provide that *Safeguarding Trust: The Church of Ireland Code of Good Practice for Ministry with Children* shall be implemented and adhered to throughout the Church of Ireland in the Church's Ministry with Children.

While the Church of Ireland code, known as *Safeguarding Trust* is printed in different editions, reflecting the variations in civil legislation of the two jurisdictions in which the Church of Ireland exists, it is nevertheless one single Code of Good Practice for Ministry with Children and this fact is clearly recognised in clause 1.

Under the provisions of clause 2, responsibility for ensuring that *Safeguarding Trust* is implemented and adhered to by all parishes, clergy and diocesan bodies within each diocese and in any diocesan activity, rests with each bishop and diocesan council.

So the commitment to protecting children from physical, sexual and emotional harm and, at the same time, the employment of those who undertake the valuable Ministry with Children, is embodied in the Code of Good Practice.

THE BISHOP OF CORK, CLOYNE AND ROSS
LADY SHEIL

(on behalf of the Standing Committee)

BILL

To include an additional Chapter in the Constitution to make provision for Ministry with Children

WHEREAS it is desirable that the Constitution of the Church of Ireland should include provision for Ministry with Children and in particular should ensure that *Safeguarding Trust: The Church of Ireland Code of Good Practice for Ministry with Children*, approved by the Standing Committee of the General Synod and reported to the General Synod, be implemented and adhered to in all parishes throughout the Church of Ireland;

AND WHEREAS for such purposes it is expedient to amend the first Schedule to Chapter I of 2003 by including an additional Chapter;

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 2006, and by the authority of the same as follows:

The first Schedule to Chapter I of 2003 is hereby amended by including the following additional Chapter as Chapter XVI of the Constitution:

CHAPTER XVI

MINISTRY WITH CHILDREN

1. *Safeguarding Trust: The Church of Ireland Code of Good Practice for Ministry with Children*, approved by the Standing Committee of the General Synod and reported to the General Synod, hereinafter referred to as *Safeguarding Trust* shall be implemented and adhered to throughout the Church of Ireland in the Church's ministry with children.
2. Each bishop and diocesan council shall ensure that *Safeguarding Trust* be implemented and adhered to by all parishes, clergy and diocesan bodies within the diocese and in any diocesan activity.