

GA Scotland Safeguarding Policy

OVERVIEW

At the heart of safeguarding is creating a safe and welcoming environment where everyone is respected and valued.

Ensuring that GA Scotland is run in a way that actively prevents harm, harassment, bullying, abuse and neglect. It is also about being ready to respond safely and well if there is a problem, everyone in GA Scotland has a role to play in safeguarding and should be aware of their duties of care to others and hence follow the law and best practice regarding safeguarding, when acting in GA Scotland's name.

THE BASIC PRINCIPLE

Everyone should recognise that all individuals regardless of race, age, ability, gender, identity, sexual orientation, religion or belief have the right to protection from all types of harm and abuse.

WHOM THE GUIDANCE PROTECTS

This policy applies to the safeguarding of all GA Scotland members, as well as those with whom GA members come into contact when acting in GA Scotland's name. This includes those under the age of 18 (minors) and vulnerable adults (who may be members of GA).

BEST PRACTICE

A copy of the latest version of this policy should be given to every new and existing GA Scotland member. It is vital that all Groups' Secretaries learn about and understand issues regarding safeguarding and protection in the context of GA, that a safe environment may be maintained for GA members, as well as those with whom GA members come into contact when acting in GA's Scotland's name.

NEW MEMBERS

Meetings with members who are new to GA should be conducted by at least two existing GA members.

SPONSORS

A Sponsor should:

1. Have at least one-year's abstinence from gambling.
2. Have regard to this guidance and their duty of care towards other GA Scotland members.

DISCLOSURE SCOTLAND CHECKS FOR MEMBERS ATTENDING PRISON VISITS

Prisons will carry out identification checks and will ask all volunteers to provide an Enhanced Disclosure Certificate. An Enhanced Disclosure Check must be obtained by any GA member engaging in a regulated activity. If any Group's Secretary or GA Scotland member is unsure whether a role requires any sort of criminal record check of any sort, they should consult the following Scottish Government guidance: <https://www.mygov.scot/organisations/disclosure-scotland>. Details about who may require a Disclosure Scotland Check in Scotland can be found here: <https://www.mygov.scot/disclosure-types>

REPORTING SAFEGUARDING CONCERNS

There are many forms of abuse and many types of abusers as well as many ways that abuse can be inflicted, the generic areas of abuse are: psychological, physical, sexual, financial and emotional.

If any GA Scotland member believes they are being abused or knows/suspects that another GA member is being abused they should consider taking the following actions, as appropriate:

- Contact a GA Scotland Safeguarding lead as follows: The GA Scotland National Secretary or The GA Scotland Office Coordinator
- Preserve any/all evidence.

- Report their concerns to:
 - Their Group's Secretary and/or any other member.
 - The Local Authority Adult Social Care Team (about a vulnerable adult); and/or
 - The Local Authority Children's Services Team (about a minor).

IN AN EMERGENCY

If there is immediate risk of abuse call 999. If there is any doubt about whether a situation amounts to abuse, GA Scotland members should consult their Local Authority's Designated Safeguarding Lead.

SMALLER GROUPS

Smaller GA Scotland Groups, and those in rural areas, should consider working with other Groups in their Region to pool their resources and to promote and strengthen their safeguarding practices.

REVIEW

This policy is reviewed annually by Gamblers Anonymous Scotland (and whenever a change in legislation occurs).