

SAFEGUARDING AND THE REHABILITATION OF OFFENDERS ACT



Standing Order (SO) 010(2) outlines how the provisions of the Rehabilitation of Offenders Act 1974 are applied. It states:

- (i) no person who has been convicted of or has received a simple or conditional caution from the police concerning an offence mentioned in Schedule 1 to the Children and Young Persons Act 1933 (as amended) or **who is barred by the Disclosure and Barring Service from work with children, young people or vulnerable adults or who the Safeguarding Committee concludes** otherwise poses a risk to children, young people or vulnerable adults shall undertake work with children, young people or vulnerable adults in the life of the Church.
- (ii) no person who has been convicted of or has received a simple or conditional caution from the police concerning an offence under the Sexual Offences Act 2003 or mentioned in Schedule 15 to the Criminal Justice Act 2003 **or who is barred by the Disclosure and Barring Service from work with children, young people or vulnerable adults** or who is the subject of a risk assessment under Standing Order 237 as a result of which the Safeguarding Committee concludes that he or she presents a significant risk of serious harm to children, young people or vulnerable adults shall be appointed or reappointed to any office, post or responsibility or engaged or re-engaged under any contract to which this sub-clause applies unless authority for the appointment or employment has been obtained.

Note that the legislation is different in Scotland and Northern Ireland.

Disclosures are handled by different organisations across the UK:

- Disclosure and Barring Service in England and Wales
- Disclosure Scotland in Scotland
- Access NI in Northern Ireland.

The relevant appointments to which this applies are explained in SO 010(3):

- (iii) first appointment as a presbyteral or diaconal probationer or, if no such appointment has been made, admission into Full Connexion as a presbyter or deacon;
- (iv) first appointment to a station as a presbyter or deacon;

(ivA) first appointment to undertake specific acts of ministry under permission given by the Conference to a person granted the status of associate presbyter or deacon;

(v) re-admission into Full Connexion as a presbyter or deacon;

(vi) any other appointment or re-appointment to any office, post or responsibility or any engagement or re-engagement under a contract of service or for services specified for this purpose by the Methodist Council.

The Methodist Conference has specified the categories for appointments to roles. A person cannot be appointed to the following roles if they have had a conviction or caution.

1. Any duty or responsibility exercised on behalf of the Methodist Church which involves:

(a) lone access to church premises;

(b) face to face contact with children and young people without the presence of another adult; or

(c) carrying out duties off church premises in circumstances in which the person concerned may be seen as a representative of the Church.

2. Any office within the following categories:

Representational	Liturgical or pastoral
Membership of the:	
Church Council	Local Preachers
Circuit Meeting	Worship leaders
District Synod	Organists/Choir leaders
Methodist Council	Pastoral visitors
Methodist Conference	Class leaders
	Communion Stewards
	Workers with children and young people

For further information, see SO 010(2), SO 010(3) and Book VI, Part 1.

For up-to-date safeguarding information, see: **methodist.org.uk/safeguarding**

This is part of a series of leaflets summarising the safeguarding provisions in Methodist Church Standing Orders and *The Constitutional Practice and Discipline of the Methodist Church*. They are not intended to replace the Standing Orders referenced. If you are unclear about their interpretation, please seek advice from the Connexional Safeguarding Team or the Conference Officer for Legal and Constitutional Practice.

The other leaflets in the Safeguarding Standing Orders series are:

- A Simplified Guide
- The Safeguarding Committee
- Duty to Obtain Disclosures
- The Church and Public Protection
- Safeguarding and Suspensions



Methodist Church House, 25 Marylebone Road, London NW1 5JR

Tel: 020 7486 5502 www.methodist.org.uk