

## Clarification regarding the guidance for Deliverance Ministry

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<b>Resolutions</b>	<p>72/1. The Council receives the report.</p> <p>72/2. The Council directs that the District Safeguarding Officer is informed in all cases of deliverance ministry.</p> <p>72/3. The Council directs that the Interim Connexional Panel on Deliverance Ministry ensures that District Safeguarding Officers, District Chairs and all who are authorised deliverance ministry practitioners are aware of the requirement to inform District Safeguarding Officers in all cases of deliverance ministry.</p>

1. The 2021 Conference adopted interim guidance for deliverance ministry (which can be found at [Conference 2021 Agenda Volume 2 \(methodist.org.uk\)](https://www.methodist.org.uk/conference-2021-agenda-volume-2)). During the Conference debate, however, it was stated that the guidance was not clear about when the District Safeguarding Officer should be informed. The guidance states that “the District Safeguarding Officer must be informed where the recipient is an adult who may be vulnerable” (Paragraph 3(vi)), but it does not provide any further information about what constitutes a vulnerable adult and potentially any person seeking deliverance ministry may be vulnerable.
2. The guidance adopted by the Conference is interim and this matter will be given further consideration before the final guidance is brought to the 2022 Conference, but it would be helpful for the Council to decide when District Safeguarding Officers are informed in the meantime. To ensure safe practice and for the sake of clarity it is recommended that District Safeguarding Officers should be alerted in all cases of deliverance ministry.
3. Given that the guidance has already been included in the *Constitutional Practice and Discipline of the Methodist Church* it is not suggested that this is formally amended, but that if the Council so directs then the Interim Connexional Panel on Deliverance Ministry ensures that the requirement to inform District Safeguarding Officers is brought to the attention of District Chairs, District Safeguarding Officers and all who become authorised deliverance ministry practitioners.

### \*\*\*RESOLUTIONS

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