

Q. What are the responsibilities of the parish in instances where a parish hall or parish premises is leased, hired or borrowed by independent groups?

A. Basically the parish has to make it a requirement that anyone it leases or rents to has:

- (i) Adequate insurance.
- (ii) Child protection policy and procedures.

Beyond that you have no responsibility. You do not vet the policy or the staff/volunteers as this assumes responsibility on the part of the parish. If they don't have policy and procedures, they cannot adopt yours, unless they are a parish group.

The excerpt below contains clarification provided by Allianz to the National Office for Safeguarding Children in the Catholic Church:

“For the sake of clarification I can confirm that the Allianz position on this subject has not changed in recent months in that it would be Allianz view that Church Authorities can only be responsible for individuals, groups or organisations which fall under their control and should not involve themselves with independent groups which lease, hire or borrow their premises for to do so would imply the Church has some control over the activities therein. As always we would recommend that where a Diocesan property is leased loaned or hired to an independent group/organisation that such a group/organisation should be asked to produce evidence that they have Public Liability (and where appropriate Employers Liability) to cover the activities being undertaken, after that it is a matter for that group or organisation to meet their Statutory obligations with regard to the protection of children. Clearly if the Church authorities become aware or suspect that inappropriate activity is being undertaken on their premises then they would have an obligation to take action to deal with the scenario presented but that obligation applies to all individuals and organisations secular or religious who make their premises available for hire loan or lease.”