

Gam-Anon Safeguarding Policy

Overview

The members of Gam-Anon support each other in Groups. As individuals, Gam-Anon members should be aware of their duties of care to others, and follow the law and best practice regarding safeguarding, when acting in Gam-Anon's name.

The basic principle of safeguarding

Everyone should understand that all individuals, regardless of age, disability, gender, racial heritage, religious belief, sexual orientation or identity, have a right to equal protection from all types of harm or abuse.

Who does this guidance aim to protect?

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

Purpose

The purpose of this safeguarding guidance is to:

- demonstrate the commitment of Gam-Anon to safeguarding adults/children; and
- to ensure that everyone involved is aware of what to do or who to speak to if they have a concern relating to the welfare or wellbeing of an adult or child.

Acting on safeguarding concerns

If any Gam-Anon member believes they are being abused or knows/suspects that another Gam-Anon member is being abused they should consider taking the following actions:

- Preserve any evidence
- Share their concerns with:
 - Group's Secretary or any other member
 - NSO Secretary
 - Local Authority Adult Safeguarding Team (about a vulnerable adult); and/or
 - Local Authority Children's Services (about a child under 18 years old).

If there is any doubt about whether a situation amounts to abuse, Gam-Anon members should discuss their concerns with the NSO Secretary or the Local Authority Adult Safeguarding Team. For children under 18 years old contact the Local Authority Children's Services.

What if someone is injured or at immediate risk?

If someone is seriously injured or at immediate risk, action should be taken straight away. Seek help by dialling 999 for police or ambulance.

Worries about sharing with Gam-Anon members

If the group secretary and/or the NSO Secretary is implicated or you think they have a conflict of interest, then contact your Local Authority Adult Safeguarding Team or Children's Services directly.