



Fact sheet: What conduct must be reported to the NSW Ombudsman?

Inappropriate conduct with, towards or in the presence of a child by a parish or agency employee, volunteer, priest, deacon or religious brother or sister may need to be reported to the NSW Ombudsman.

If a reportable crime is committed by a parish or agency employee, volunteer, priest, deacon or religious brother or sister, that conduct must be reported to the NSW Ombudsman in addition to the NSW Police – see **Fact Sheet: What is a reportable crime?** for examples of reportable crimes.

The following conduct that might arise in the parish or agency context must also be reported to the NSW Ombudsman:

Crossing professional boundaries

For example: having an inappropriate or overly personal or intimate relationship with a child; focussing on a child in an inappropriate or overly personal or intimate way; or behaving towards a child in an overly personal or intimate way.

Does not include: comforting a child who is distressed.

Sexually explicit comments or behaviour

For example: sexual exhibitionism; inappropriate conversations of a sexual nature; watching children undress unless appropriate in the circumstances.

Ill-treatment

For example: unreasonable or inappropriate punishment; making degrading comments.

Behaviour that causes psychological harm

For example: unreasonable behaviour that results in significant emotional harm or trauma to a child.

Neglect

For example: failure to provide adequate supervision; exposure to harmful situations.

Physical assault

Does not include: separating children who are fighting; moving a child out of harm's way; exercising appropriate control over a child; touching a child to attract their attention or guide them.