

# Safeguarding Policy

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ClientEarth is committed to the protection, welfare, and safety of children, young people, and adults-at-risk. We wish to provide a safe and trusted environment for all. We foster a culture where our staff have a duty to safeguard those at risk, and we encourage and empower anyone affected by our activities to share any safeguarding concerns, with the confidence that these will be addressed.

This Policy sets out ClientEarth’s overarching principles that guide our approach to safeguarding, as well as the measures we take to meet our safeguarding responsibilities and raise safeguarding concerns.

This Policy has been approved by ClientEarth’s Executive Team, and reflects our values.

Values	Application in this Policy
Acting courageously	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• We encourage staff to protect those at risk and call out safeguarding incidents</li></ul>
Prizing diverse experience	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• We engage external experts, if necessary, to develop and implement procedures for safeguarding, and incident investigation</li></ul>
Embracing collaboration	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• We share information and develop relationships with other organisations to support and promote strong safeguarding standards</li></ul>
Learning continuously	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• We enhance our safeguarding systems and practices and ensure that we hear and learn from vulnerable individuals and communities</li></ul>
Opposing injustice	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• We value safeguarding to counter injustice, mindful that children, young people, or adults-at-risk may need more support or protection</li></ul>
Focusing on impact	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• We recognise that our vision to strive for a healthy planet where nature and <u>all</u> people can thrive together can only be achieved through addressing safeguarding</li></ul>

## What is the Scope of this Policy?

This Policy applies to all ClientEarth entities and staff worldwide, including all governance and management board members, who are expected to use best judgment in applying this Policy, and to play an active part in preventing non-compliance and promoting best practices. Staff are responsible for preventing, detecting, and reporting breaches of this Policy. Staff non-compliance with this Policy could be considered as a breach of employment agreement, and could lead to disciplinary action by ClientEarth, in line with local labour law.

It also applies to those associated with ClientEarth or those who work for or with ClientEarth in some way, e.g., Partners or Funders. Partner or Funder non-compliance may result in the possible termination of appointments, contracts, or other formal agreements. This Policy is publicly accessible to all, as well as our reporting channel accessible via the **TellUs** tab on [Transparency | ClientEarth](#).

## ClientEarth’s Principles-Based Approach to Safeguarding

Principle 1: ClientEarth looks to promote the welfare of children, young people, and adults-at-risk, and to protect them from harm

While the vast majority of our work is not carried out directly with children, young people and adults-at-risk, we and our Partners may occasionally interact with them. So we must ensure that all of our activities,

undertaken by staff and our wider network, will safeguard the fundamental right of every child, young person, and adult to feel safe.

ClientEarth strives to protect children, young people, and adults-at-risk from abuse and maltreatment, prevent harm to children and young people's health and development, and ensure that they benefit from the provision of safe and effective care and the best outcomes. Staff – who uphold the integrity and reputation of ClientEarth – thereby have a duty to ensure their protection and welfare, not engage in abusive or exploitative conduct, and provide an environment that respects the rights of all to be safe.

## Principle 2: It is better to take action before harm occurs

ClientEarth is intent on building a culture where prevention of harm is embedded in all we do. We safely recruit, select, and vet our staff by ensuring our recruitment procedures comply with relevant legislation and guidance. We ensure that staff will understand violence and abuse against children, young people, and adults-at-risk in all its forms, both inside and outside of ClientEarth. We ensure that our staff are aware that harm in any form is unacceptable, be it abuse, neglect, or psychological or physical harm – and that they should raise safeguarding concerns. We also ensure that our staff are well-equipped to respond to any incidents. We raise this awareness through policy-sharing and ongoing training, which staff are required to attend, and comply and engage with.

We will also share information and develop relationships and partnerships with other organisations locally and internationally to support and promote strong safeguarding standards. We will further enhance our systems and practices, in line with our safeguarding strategy, and ensure that we promote, hear and learn from vulnerable individuals and communities, which in turn will inform our work.

## Principle 3: All suspicions and concerns of harm should be reported immediately

Where staff, Partners, Funders, or any member of the public are aware or have concerns that a child, young person, or adult-at-risk is being harmed, or that a person in direct contact with such a person may be harming them, they should report it immediately through our reporting channel accessible via the **TellUs** tab on [Transparency | ClientEarth](#). The reporting channel is ClientEarth's single repository of reports, and so we ask you to ensure that all reports are logged in the channel, whether you yourself are the one reporting, or whether the report is in the name of another member of staff, or a third party. Anyone who raises a concern under this Policy is protected under our Whistleblowing Policy.

## Principle 4: Reports should be investigated and managed in a timely, sensitive, and appropriate manner

Reports should be acknowledged, investigated, and resolved promptly. Reports shall be investigated by (an) impartial and competent investigation officer(s) and reported to the proper authorities, if and as necessary. The investigating officer(s) will take steps to ensure, to the extent possible, that children, young people, and adults-at-risk are protected from further harm during the course of an investigation.

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ClientEarth is an environmental law charity, a company limited by guarantee, registered in England and Wales, company number 02863827, registered charity number 1053988, registered office 10 Queen Street Place, London EC4R 1BE, a registered international non-profit organisation in Belgium, ClientEarth AISBL, enterprise number 0714.925.038, a non-profit limited liability company in Germany, ClientEarth gGmbH, HRB 202487 B, a registered foundation in Poland, Fundacja "ClientEarth Prawnicy dla Ziemi", KRS 0000364218, NIP 7010254208, a registered delegation in Spain, Fundación ClientEarth Delegación en España, NIF W0170741C, a registered 501(c)(3) organisation in the US, ClientEarth US, EIN 81-0722756, a registered subsidiary in China, ClientEarth Beijing Representative Office, Registration No. G1110000MA0095H836, a registered subsidiary in Japan, Ippan Shadan Hojin ClientEarth, corporate number 6010405022079, a registered subsidiary and company limited by guarantee in Australia, ClientEarth Oceania Limited, company number 664010655.