

# Safeguarding Policy

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ClientEarth is committed to the protection, welfare, and safety of children, young people, and adults-at-risk. We aim 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 Group's Executive Team and reflects our values.

<b>Values</b>	<b>Application in this Policy</b>
Acting courageously	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Staff have a duty and are expressly empowered to protect those at risk and speak up about safeguarding concerns, incidents and near misses</li></ul>
Embracing collaboration	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• We share information and build relationships with other organisations to strengthen safeguarding standards and ensure collective responsibility for protection</li></ul>
Acting with integrity	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• We uphold the highest ethical standards in safeguarding, ensuring transparency, accountability, and fairness to all in our actions and decisions.</li></ul>
Caring for people and planet	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• We recognise that safeguarding is essential to our mission of protecting both people and the environment and we commit to creating a safe space for all .</li></ul>

## What is the Scope of this Policy?

This Policy applies to all ClientEarth Group entities and Staff worldwide, including all Governance Board and Management Body 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 is our whistleblowing and reporting channel accessible via **TEllUs** on [Transparency | ClientEarth](#).

## ClientEarth's Principles-Based Approach to Safeguarding

Principle 1: ClientEarth promotes the welfare of children, young people, and adults-at-risk, and protects them from harm.

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

undertaken by Staff and our wider network 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 their health and development, and ensure that they benefit from the provision of safe and effective care and the best outcomes. Staff uphold the integrity and reputation of ClientEarth and thereby have a duty to promote 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: We take preventative action to reduce the likelihood of safeguarding incidents occurring.

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 know how to recognise 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 all and any safeguarding concerns. We also ensure that our Staff are well-equipped to respond to any safeguarding incidents. We raise this awareness through policy-sharing and ongoing training, which Staff are required to attend, and comply and engage with.

We also share information and develop relationships and partnerships with other organisations locally and internationally to support and promote strong safeguarding standards, and to learn from these. 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: We respond to safeguarding suspicions, concerns and incidents with urgency and professionalism.

All safeguarding concerns must be reported immediately through our reporting channel accessible via **TellUs** on [Transparency | ClientEarth](#) or directly to the Safeguarding Lead or Deputy Safeguarding Lead. Anyone who raises a concern under this Policy is protected under our Whistleblowing & Reporting Policy. We support staff in responding to disclosures and ensure that individuals are protected from further harm.

Principle 4: We investigate safeguarding reports in a timely, sensitive, and appropriate manner.

Safeguarding reports are 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), trained in safeguarding, 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.