



Mountaineering Ireland - Safeguarding Youth Participation

AccessNI - for Mountaineering Ireland and its clubs

(NB: Please read in conjunction with 'Notes for the use of AccessNI by Mountaineering Ireland').

Mountaineering Ireland is registered with AccessNI as an umbrella organisation¹. MI uses this to provide MI and its member clubs a method of accessing the AccessNI service to fulfill their safeguarding obligations under Protection of Children and Vulnerable Adults (NI) Order 2003 (POCVA).

What does this mean for clubs in Northern Ireland?

Mountaineering Ireland recommends that its member clubs fulfill their safeguarding obligations under Protection of Children and Vulnerable Adults (NI) Order 2003 (POCVA). Clubs offering provision for under 18s are legally obliged to ensure that those working with children are checked using an enhanced disclosure obtained from AccessNI via the umbrella service provided by Mountaineering Ireland.

For example, if the club has child members (under 18 yrs old) and it wishes to use volunteers or employ persons to work with children or manage information relating to children then this work will fall within the POCVA order and such persons should obtain a disclosure certificate** from AccessNI.

The club childrens officer or lead club person in the recruitment process can direct the individual to download the AccessNI Mountaineering guidance note @ www.mountaineering.ie/youth. Briefly, the person to be checked fills in the relevant parts of the AccessNI form and sends it to MI's Youth Development Officer, Hotrock Climbing Wall, Tollymore Mountain Centre, Co. Down. They also need to present in person their Id documents to a board member of MI or an employee of MI.

The MI Childrens Officer will countersign the form and send it to AccessNI. If the person is a volunteer the service is free. If the person will be paid for their services then AccessNI charge a fee of £30. Normally the turnaround time is approximately 10 days upon which the childrens officer and the person will receive a confidential disclosure certificate (<http://www.accessni.gov.uk/index/services/disclosures/enhanced-disclosures.htm>).

The club childrens officer or lead person involved in the recruitment process will be contacted by the Childrens Officer to inform whether the certificate has been issued. Mountaineering Ireland will hold confidentially and securely hold the Disclosure certificates according to accessNI code of practice.

(** Enhanced Disclosures are used mainly for positions that involve contact with children or vulnerable adults.)

The type of work will involve regulated or controlled activity, as defined in the Safeguarding Vulnerable Groups (NI) Order 2007 or regularly caring for, supervising, training or being in sole charge of young people; or regular contact with residents of care homes or providing services to unwell, infirm or disabled people).

¹ <http://www.accessni.gov.uk/index/who-uses-ani/umbrella-bodies.htm>