

ARG UK Safeguarding Protocols

Amphibian & Reptile Groups of UK (ARG UK) is a registered charity (number 1165504) committed to the conservation of native amphibians and reptiles and their natural environment by supporting the development of a network of independent volunteer amphibian and reptile groups (ARGs).

Our safeguarding protocols apply equally to our staff, trustees, volunteers and members of the wider public attending our events, activities and training days. We want all of our members and volunteers including children and vulnerable and protected adults to enjoy their involvement with ARG UK and its affiliated groups. To engender this we commit to operating safely, with safeguarding as the top priority, and to act and be seen to act appropriately at all times.

Safeguarding Protocols

Who do I go to if I am concerned?

The named responsible person for safeguarding duties for ARG UK is **Angela Julian**, Coordinator (contact: angela.julian@arguk.org, mobile: 07891 633692), supported by **Nicola Morris**, Lead Safeguarding Trustee (nicola.morris@arguk.org) or **David Willis**, Lead Safeguarding for MoJ partnership programme working with offenders and former offenders (davewillisbhs@yahoo.co.uk).

All staff and volunteers should contact the ARG UK safeguarding lead, Dr Angela Julian, with any concerns/queries they have in regards to safeguarding adults or children. A log of the concern must be kept. If the allegation is against the safeguarding lead, seek advice from **Nicola Morris** at nicola.morris@arguk.org (Lead Safeguarding Trustee) or **David Willis** at davewillisbhs@yahoo.co.uk (Lead Safeguarding for MoJ partnership programme working with offenders and former offenders).

The designated safeguarding leads are responsible for providing acknowledgement of the referral and brief feedback to the person raising the original concern. Feedback should be given in a way that will not make the situation worse or breach the Data Protection Act. If the police are involved, they should be consulted prior to giving feedback to the referrer to ensure any criminal investigation is not affected.

Angela Julian, Nicola Morris and David Willis will also ensure that safeguarding policies and procedures are in place and up to date. They will ensure a safe environment is promoted for staff, volunteers and members of the public working with ARG UK and the affiliated ARGs.

What should I do if I am concerned?

Raising a safeguarding concern

You are informed or become aware of possible abuse

Gather information,

Seek consent, how does the person (or parents/carers) wish for the concern to proceed?

- What changes/support would they like as a result of this concern being raised?

RESPOND

Take action to ensure the immediate safety and welfare of the person/child at risk Consider:

- Does medical attention need to be organised? (dial 999)
- Is urgent police presence required? (dial 999)

REPORT

Has a crime been committed? If so, does it need to be reported? (dial 101 unless there is an immediate risk, in which case dial 999)

Preserve forensic evidence (if any)

REFER

Decide whether to raise a safeguarding concern, and if so, take action

Do this:

- Immediately where the concern is urgent and serious
- Within the same working day for any other concerns

RECORD

Document the incident and any actions or decisions taken

REFER

Ensure key people are informed

e.g. Responsible safeguarding lead, relatives as appropriate, ARG committee members, Board of ARG UK trustees

SUPPORT

Provide support or feedback for the person identifying the safeguarding concern

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NOTE: Incidents of abuse may be one-off or multiple and may affect one person or more. Staff and volunteers should look beyond single incidents to identify patterns of harm. Accurate recording of information will also assist in recognising any patterns.

Confidentiality and information sharing

ARG UK expects all its staff, volunteers and trustees to maintain confidentiality at all times. In line with Data Protection law, ARG UK does not share information if not required.

It should however be noted that information will be shared with authorities if a person is deemed to be at risk of immediate harm. Sharing the right information, at the right time, with the right people can make all the difference to preventing harm. For further guidance on information sharing and safeguarding see: https://www.scie.org.uk/care-act-2014/safeguarding-adults/sharing-information/keymessages.asp