



Diocese of Westminster

SAFEGUARDING SERVICE

Role: Bereavement Home Visitor

Responsible to: (The Parish Priest, his Delegate or leader for that group)

Main Responsibilities:

- (a) To undertake specified training as directed by the Parish Priest to help in their role as a Bereavement Home Visitor.
- (b) To attend regular support meetings as arranged by the Parish Priest or Facilitator.
- (c) To ensure that good practice and ethical guidelines are being maintained as outlined in the training.
- (d) To provide one to one support to the bereaved, at their request, at least six to eight weeks following their loss.
- (e) To agree that notes will be kept separate and in a secure place to ensure confidentiality.

Person Specification:

- (a) A good listener with good communication skills
- (b) Non-judgemental
- (c) Ability to set clear boundaries with an awareness of the importance of confidentiality.
- (d) The ability to be with others, experiencing their feelings of loss without being overwhelmed.
- (e) The ability to listen without the need to explore or discuss, in detail, their own loss/es.

Guidelines

If the prospective Bereavement Home Visitor has had a recent bereavement, it will be at the discretion of the Parish Priest or Facilitator to determine the time allowed before becoming a Bereavement Home Visitor.

Being invited into peoples' homes puts you in a unique position. You are most likely their only contact with the Church. Please make your visit as reverent and meaningful as possible and be aware of their needs.

- (a) When visiting the housebound you must remember that you are there at their invitation. It is a special relationship that you have, one that includes a degree of trust.
- (b) Relationships can develop and, particularly where there is no family, you may be trusted with confidential information of the location of valuables. It is recommended that for your own protection, your parish priest be made aware of such instances.