



Lone Working Information Sheet 2019

Our Lady of Sorrows and St. Bridget of Sweden, Isleworth, is fully committed to safeguarding and promoting the well-being of all its parishioners. We should always show respect and understanding for the safety and welfare of others. Parishioners are encouraged to be open and to share any concerns or complaints that they may have with the Parish Safeguarding Representative.

Working alone is not in itself against the law and it will often be safe to do so. However, the law requires employers to consider carefully, and then deal with, any health and safety risks for people working alone. Employers are responsible for the health, safety and welfare at work of all their workers. They also have responsibility for the health and safety of any contractors or self-employed people doing work for them. These responsibilities cannot be transferred to any other person, including those people who work alone. Workers have responsibilities to take reasonable care of themselves and other people affected by their work activities and to co-operate with their employers in meeting their legal obligations.

Who are lone workers?

Lone workers are those who work by themselves without close or direct supervision.

How must employers control the risks to lone workers?

Employers have a duty to assess risks to lone workers and take steps to avoid or control risks where necessary. This must include:

- involving workers when considering potential risks and measures to control them;
- taking steps to ensure risks are removed where possible, or putting in place control measures;
- instruction, training, supervision;
- reviewing risk assessments periodically or when there has been a significant change in working practice



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Which particular problems effect lone workers?

Lone workers should not be put at more risk than other employees. Establishing a healthy and safe working environment for lone workers can be different from organising the health and safety of other employees. Your risk assessment should identify the issues relevant to your circumstances. For example:

- Does the workplace present a specific risk to the lone worker?
- Is there a safe way in and out for one person?
- Is there a risk of violence or aggression?
- Is there reason to believe that the lone worker is more vulnerable than others and be particularly at risk if they work alone e.g. are the young, pregnant, disabled or a trainee?

How do you monitor the environment in which the lone worker is operating into ensure it is safe?

- periodically visit and observe the lone worker at work;
- pre-arrange intervals of regular contact between the lone worker and supervisor, using phones, email or radio if available;
- install manually operated or automatic warning devices which trigger if specific signals are not received periodically from the lone worker e.g. security systems;
- implement a robust system to ensure the lone worker has returned home once their task has been completed.

What happens if the lone worker becomes ill, has an accident or there is an emergency?

Any risk assessment must identify foreseeable risks. Emergency procedures should be established and employees should be trained in them. Information regarding emergency procedures should be given to lone workers. The risk assessment should also include whether there is access to adequate first aid facilities.