

### Local/National Support Groups

Contact / Service	Contact Details
MIDOC Laois Out of Hours GP Service	1850 302 702
Emergency Services Gardaí, Ambulance, Fire	999 or 112 Portlaoise Station: 057 8674100 Portlaoise Hospital: 057 8621364
Josephine Rigney Suicide Resource Officer / Suicide Prevention Officer (Longford, Westmeath, Laois & Offaly)	Ph: 057 9357807 Mob: 086 8157850 E-Mail: josephine.rigney@ hse.ie
Laois CAMHS Child & Adolescent Mental Health Service Laois/Offaly	057 8696152
Midland Living Links Bereavement Listening & Support Service	086 1600641
AWARE Depression/Anxiety Support	Helpline: 1800 80 48 48 7 days (10am - 10pm)
Childline 24 hr Counselling Service	1800 666 666
Pieta House 24/7 Suicide Helpline	Helpline: 1800 247247 Text: "HELP" to 51444
Samaritans Depression/Anxiety Support	116 123 jo@samaritans.org
Citizens Information Centre	0761 075590

### GAA County/HQ Contacts

Contact	Contact Details
County Health & Wellbeing Chairperson Tom Jones	086 2407617
County Children's Officer Seamus Lahart	087 6628132
County Secretary Niall Handy	087 6868482 secretary.laois@gaa.ie
County PRO Tom Clear	086 8579998 pro.laois@gaa.ie
National Children's Officer (Croke Park) Gearoid O Maoilmhichill	01 8363222 or nationalchildrensofficer@ gaa.ie
Community & Health Manager (Croke Park) Collin Regan	01 8658674 collin.regan@gaa.ie

### Media Contacts

Newspaper / Media Outlet	Contact Details
Leinster Express Laois Nationalist Midlands Radio 3	057 862 1666 057 867 0216 057 935 1333



Laois Sports Partnership  
"Supporting Sports & Physical Activity for  
All The People of Laois"  
www.laoissports.ie  
057 8671248 info@laoissports.ie

LAOIS SPORTS PARTNERSHIP  
COMHAR SPÓIRT NA LAOISE

## LAOIS GAA

*supported by Clonad GAA &  
Laois Sports Partnership*



## Coping with a Critical Incident



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*Laois GAA - Supporting our Clubs & Our Community*

### Implementation of Plan

#### **Club Chairperson - Lead Liaison Person - Critical Incident Response Team**

#### Immediate Response

- Phone Emergency Services 112 or 999
- Provide First Aid
- Make scene safe and evacuate members if necessary
- Make contact with relevant support services / agencies if required

#### Lead Liaison Person

- Once alerted of the incident assess the situation
- Consult with those affected to see what level of support they want from the club, if any
- Activate the Critical Incident Response Team within 12-24hrs of incident at agreed location
- Initiate Critical Incident Response Plan
- Establish facts and agree actions with CIRT
- Plan and approve the immediate response
- Agree all social media/press statements with Media Liaison Person (use templates provided)
- Decide how incident will be communicated to members and make arrangements for same
- Sign-Post appropriate supports for those affected
- Respect privacy and confidentiality at all times
- Record facts and keep a log
- Deal with any other issues as they arise
- Arrange debrief with CIRT, evaluate and review plan if necessary

#### Media Liaison Person

- With the CIRT, prepare a statement using templates provided
- Designate mobile numbers for contact
- If required, organise a designated area/space to address media
- Be mindful of social media and ensure that all information put on social media is accurate and approved by those affected
- DO NOT discuss details of incident with media/3rd parties until agreed statement has been made
- Ensure all media communications is logged
- DO NOT give any fact unless you are certain it is correct
- DO NOT be afraid to say 'I DO NOT KNOW'

#### Family Liaison Person

- Co-ordinate contact with family
- Liaise with family of bereaved regarding plans for attendance at funerals etc
- Provide ongoing support to families affected by the incident – as appropriate
- Organise letter of condolence to the family from the club

#### Community Liaison Person

- Main point of contact with relevant support agencies
- Keep contact details up-to-date

#### Recovery

Remember to refer to the Critical Incident Plan for follow up actions - **Post Incident & In the Longer Term**

#### REMEMBER:

Individuals and families are central and must be heard first

All information to the media should come through a single reliable source (Media Liaison Person)

The GAA will usually be just one entity playing a part in any response to a critical incident

The role of the club is primarily to act as a sign-posting service to the supports that are available

Boundaries should be appreciated and getting the balance between what a voluntary entity can offer as opposed to what professionals can is important. Do not take on too much

#### Checklist

- ✓ *Have key roles been clearly identified and tasks clearly outlined?*
- ✓ *Are personnel suitable?*
- ✓ *Is the contact list appropriate and complete?*
- ✓ *Are materials such as press releases, letters readily available, for adaption to suit the particular circumstances?*
- ✓ *Are telephone numbers on contact lists up-to-date?*
- ✓ *Where will the plan be kept and are people aware of this?*
- ✓ *Has each member of the Critical Incident Team a personal copy of policy and plan*
- ✓ *Has a date been set for a review of the plan?*