

# **Health and Safety**

## **Introduction**

First Lisburn Presbyterian Church (FLPC) wish to ensure that everyone within the church is kept safe and free from harm, and aims to conduct its activities accordingly.

All businesses are required to comply with Health and Safety legislation, The Health and Safety at Work (NI) Order 1978, and Churches are no exception. For churches like our own which employ five or more persons, the law requires our Health and Safety policy and procedures to be in written form. Local Authority Environmental Officers are specifically charged with enforcing health and safety legislation in churches.

In compliance with the regulations FLPC appointed a Health and Safety sub-committee under the guidance of the Church Committee tasked with the responsibility for developing and maintaining a Health and Safety policy.

The Presbyterian Church in Ireland and the Health and Safety Executive have further advised that it is good practice for church volunteers to be provided with the same level of Health and Safety training and protection as if they were employees. This means that FLPC is required to follow exactly the same regulations to ensure that the health and safety of all our volunteers, visitors, contractors and any other persons using the church premises as if they were employees.

The level of risk is determined through conducting a risk assessment. We are required through a duty of care to ensure that FLPC is safe for all who may make use of the premises for whatever purpose. The easiest way to do this is to carry out systematic risk assessment of each part of the church and each activity.

The following Health and Safety document represents the steps taken by FLPC in compliance of the legislation.

This document has been prepared in accordance with the provisions of the Health and Safety at Work etc. Act 1974, The Health and Safety at Work (NI) Order 1978, and the Regulations made under them.

The Policy is in seven sections, as outlined in the Table of Contents

- Section A: General Statement of Policy
- Section B: Organisation and Responsibilities
- Section C: Implementation of Policy
- Section D: Contractors and Visitors
- Section E: Risk Assessments
- Section F: Information and Enforcement
- Section G: Appendices



**To all employees, volunteer helpers and contractors:**

The success of this policy will depend on your co-operation. It is therefore important that you read this document carefully and understand your role and the overall arrangement for Health and Safety in FLPC.

This policy and procedures will be reviewed regularly and up-dated as necessary.

Ian McDougall  
Health & Safety Convenor

1 December 2009

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**FIRST LISBURN  
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH**  
*Welcomes All The Community*

<b>Name</b>	First Lisburn Presbyterian Church (FLPC)
<b>Address</b>	43 Market Square South LISBURN Co Antrim BT28 1AG
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