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STATUTORY RULES OF NORTHERN IRELAND

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**2022 No. 146**

**The Domestic Abuse Information-sharing with  
Schools etc. Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2022**

**Unauthorised disclosure of information**

6.—(1) A person to whom paragraph (2) applies is guilty of an offence if the person discloses without lawful authority any information—

- (a) which is, or is derived from, information provided under Regulation 3 or 5; and
- (b) which relates to a particular person.

(2) This paragraph applies to—

- (a) any person who is a relevant person, a designated person, a class teacher or the Education Authority; and
- (b) any other person who uses any information which he knows has been disclosed in contravention of these Regulations or discloses such information to another person.

(3) It is a defence for a person charged with an offence under this Regulation to show that at the time of the alleged offence—

- (a) they believed that the disclosure in question was made with lawful authority and had no reasonable cause to believe otherwise; or
- (b) they believed that the information in question had previously been disclosed to the public with lawful authority and had no reasonable cause to believe otherwise.

(4) A person who is guilty of an offence under this Regulation is liable—

- (a) on summary conviction, to a fine not exceeding the statutory maximum;
- (b) on conviction on indictment, to a fine.

(5) For the purposes of this Regulation a disclosure of information by a person is to be regarded as made with lawful authority if, and only if, it is made—

- (a) in the course of and for the purposes of that person's employment where that person is a relevant person, a designated person, a class teacher or the Education Authority;
- (b) in accordance with these Regulations;
- (c) in accordance with any other statutory provision or order of a court;
- (d) for the purposes of any civil or criminal proceedings howsoever arising; or
- (e) with the consent of the person to whom the information relates.