

Classical Abuse Response Team (CART)

Mandate: The Classis Abuse Response Team (CART) offers an Advisory Panel Process to councils in Classis Alberta North when allegations of abuse are brought by an adult against a church leader. The process is ecclesiastical in nature and does not prevent the claimant from taking criminal or civil action if deemed necessary.

Accountability: The CART is accountable to Classis Alberta North (CAN) and will provide at a minimum an annual report as to its areas of responsibility and membership. CART will inform CIC when an Advisory Panel is being convened.

Membership:

1. CART will be composed of a Convener and a minimum of 6 additional panel members.
2. The Convener may also serve on an Advisory Panel.
3. Members must be from not fewer than 4 CAN churches and represent a gender balance.
4. Members must be trained in the Advisory Panel Process and take part in a refresher course every subsequent 3 years.
5. Members must sign a confidentiality agreement.

Guidelines:

1. The advisory Panel Process is to be followed when:
 - a. The claimant is a legal adult (there is no statute of limitations, so alleged abuse may have taken place when claimant was a child or adolescent)
 - b. The alleged abuse is physical, emotional, or sexual in nature, and involves a CRC church leader.
2. Councils (normally the chair) should contact the panel's convener by phone and/or in writing if services may be required.
3. When an allegation of abuse is brought forward, the Convener will form an Advisory Panel of CART members who are not members of the congregation of either the accused or the claimant, nor may they have any ongoing affiliation with the accused or the claimant.
4. An Advisory Panel will normally include not fewer than 4 Panel members.
5. In a situation in which there are not sufficient Panel Members from CAN CART, the convener may recruit Panel Members from other CRCNA Classis CARTs.
6. CART will follow the Flow Chart of the Advisory Panel Process devised by CRCNA Safe Church [APP Flow Chart - 2023.pdf \(crcna.org\)](#).

For more information, complete guidelines, or consultation for all parties during an Advisory Panel Process, contact Safe Church (crcna.org/safechurch).