



Diocese of Venice in Florida

Code of Conduct for Volunteers Working with Minors

As a volunteer I promise to strictly follow the rules and guidelines in the Volunteer's Code of Conduct as a condition of providing services to children.

Volunteers shall:

- Treat everyone with respect, loyalty, patience, integrity, courtesy, dignity, and consideration.
- Try to avoid situations in which one is alone with a child at Church activities.
- Use positive reinforcement with children and youth rather than criticism, competition, or comparison.
- Refuse to accept expensive gifts from children and youth or parents without previous written approval of the pastor or administrator.
- Refrain from giving expensive gifts to children or youth without prior approval of the parents or guardian and the pastor or administrator.
- Report to the Department of Children and Families (DCF Abuse Hotline: 800-962-2873), Victim Assistance Coordinator (941-416-6614) and the Pastor/Administrator, any reasonable suspicion of abuse.
- Be familiar with the Diocese of Venice Policy and Procedural Guidelines on Sexual Misconduct by Diocesan Personnel.
- Cooperate fully in any investigation of abuse of children or youth.
- Demonstrate respect for the teachings of the church as well as the provisions of secular and canon law.
- Provide appropriate adult supervision of minors.

Volunteers shall not:

- Smoke or use tobacco products in the presence of children, unless to leave their presence would result in inadequate supervision.
- Use, possess, or be under the influence of illegal drugs at any time while volunteering.
- Use, possess, or be under the influence of alcohol at any time while volunteering.
- Pose any health risk to children and youth (i.e., no fevers or other contagious situations).
- Strike, spank, shake, or slap children and youth.
- Humiliate, ridicule, threaten, or degrade children and youth.
- Touch a child in a sexual or other inappropriate manner.
- Use any discipline that frightens or humiliates children and youth.
- Use profanity in the presence of children and youth.
- Engage in any conversation of a sexual nature which does not comport with church teaching.
- Wear sexually suggestive or immodest attire.

I understand that any action inconsistent with this Code of Conduct or failure to take action mandated by this Code of Conduct may result in my removal as a volunteer with children and youth.

Volunteer's Signature

Date

Printed Name