

Metropolitan Archeparchy of Pittsburgh

Office for the Protection of Children | 66 Riverview Avenue | Pittsburgh, PA 15214 | Ph: 412-231-4000 | Fax: 412-231-1697

CODE OF ETHICS AND CONDUCT FOR CHURCH PERSONNEL

Our children are the most important gifts God has entrusted to us. In working with young people in church-related situations, I promise to strictly follow the rules and guidelines in this Code of Ethics and Conduct.

I will:

- Exhibit the highest Christian ethical standards and personal integrity, and will accept the responsibility to witness in all relationships the chastity appropriate to their state of life, whether celibate, married or single.
- Conduct myself in a manner that is consistent with the discipline and teachings of the Catholic Church.
- Treat everyone with respect, patience, and consideration.
- Be positive rather than negative in dealing with young people.
- Maintain appropriate physical and emotional boundaries with young people.
- Refuse to accept expensive gifts from young people or give them gifts without approval of their parents and/or the person in authority.
- Accept personal responsibility to protect minors and vulnerable adults from all forms of abuse by reporting suspected abuse or neglect to appropriate civil authorities and to the Metropolitan Archeparchy

I will not:

- Use, possess, or be under the influence of alcohol or illegal drugs while working with young people.
- Violate another's sexual boundaries by using seductive speech, gestures, visual representations or physical contact that sexually abuses, exploits, or harasses another person, especially if that person is in a relationship of vulnerability or dependence.
- Participate in the acquisition, possession or distribution of child pornography.
- Expose young people to pornographic or obscene material in any format.
- Touch a young person in a sexual or other inappropriate manner.
- Allow bullying of a young person by another.
- Place myself in a situation with a young person where my actions cannot be observed.
- Smoke or use tobacco in the presence of young people.
- Strike, spank, shake, or slap young people.
- Use profanity in the presence of young people.
- Be alone with a young person in a car.
- Meet with a young person in a one-on-one situation behind closed doors.
- Use any discipline that frightens or humiliates a young person.

I understand that I am subject to background checks. I also understand that any action inconsistent with this Code of Ethics and Conduct may result in my no longer being permitted to work with young people.

Printed Name _____ Position _____ Parish _____

Address _____

Phone (home) _____ (cell) _____

Email _____

Signature _____ Witness _____

Date _____