

DIOCESE OF FRESNO CODE OF CONDUCT

For Interactions with Parish Children and Youth

No employee or volunteer may:

1. Travel alone with any child/youth who is not related to him/her.
2. Take any child/youth home without written permission from the parent and clearance by the Church.
3. Spend time alone with child/youth outside of Church sanctioned activities.
4. Create an excessive or exclusive emotional attachment with child/youth.
5. Be alone with child/youth in any of the following areas: private residence; overnight lodging; locker room; dressing facility; closed room; and other similar isolated areas.
6. Sleep in the same bed with or dress/undress in the sight of child/youth during a parish event or camp/retreat related environment.
7. Formally counsel child/youth unless credentialed and specifically assigned this role.
8. Speak in a manner that is abusive or demeaning or use inappropriate language/humor.
9. Discuss topics such as sex, abortion, birth control, drugs, explicit television or video movies and/or games with child/youth outside of the formal catechetical or pastoral setting.
10. Use, possess, be impaired by alcohol or illegal drugs nor dispense alcohol, tobacco, or illegal drugs to child/youth.
11. Dispense over-the-counter or prescription medication to child/youth without the proper diocesan permission forms on file.
12. Use physical discipline, or knowingly put any child/youth in a potentially risky situation.
13. Display physical affection unless the child/youth first initiates such. In such cases contact should strictly be limited to a brief, appropriate response.
14. Touch any private area of the body under any circumstances or engage in sexual intimacies.

Employees and volunteers must:

1. Attend all Mandatory "Safe Environment" Training and follow prescribed reporting procedures for suspected child abuse.
2. If over 18 years of age, be fingerprinted if involved in any parish activity that will cause him/her to be in an unsupervised setting with child/youth for any length of time. An adult must supervise volunteers less than 18 years of age at all times.

Employee/Volunteer Statement of Compliance

I understand and agree to comply with the Diocese of Fresno CODE OF CONDUCT
For Interactions with Parish Children and Youth

Signature _____ **Date** _____

Parish _____ **City** _____