

Our children and vulnerable adults are the most important gifts God has entrusted to us. As a volunteer, I promise to strictly follow the rules and guidelines in this Volunteer's Code of Conduct as a condition of my providing services to the children/youth and/or vulnerable adults of our *[parish, school, facility, diocese, etc.*

As a volunteer, I will:

- Treat everyone with respect, loyalty, patience, integrity, courtesy, dignity, and consideration.
- Avoid situations where I am alone with children/ youth and/or vulnerable adults at Church activities.
- Use positive reinforcement rather than criticism, competition, or comparison when working with children/ youth and/or vulnerable adults.
- Refuse to accept expensive gifts from children and/or youth or their parents without prior written approval from the pastor or administrator.
- Refrain from giving expensive gifts to children/ youth and/or vulnerable adults without prior written approval from the parents or guardian and the pastor or administrator.
- Report suspected abuse to the pastor, administrator, or appropriate supervisor and *[the local Child Protection Services agency]*. I understand that failure to report suspected abuse to civil authorities is, according to the law, a misdemeanor.
- Cooperate fully in any investigation of abuse of children/ youth and/or vulnerable adults.

As a volunteer, I will not:

- Smoke or use tobacco products in the presence of children/ youth and/or vulnerable adults.
- Use, possess, or be under the influence of alcohol at any time while volunteering.
- Use, possess, or be under the influence of illegal drugs at any time.
- Pose any health risk to children/ youth and/or vulnerable adults (i.e., no fevers or other contagious situations).
- Strike, spank, shake, or slap children/ youth and/or vulnerable adults.
- Humiliate, ridicule, threaten, or degrade children/ youth and/or vulnerable adults.
- Touch a children/ youth and/or vulnerable adults in a sexual or other inappropriate manner.
- Use any discipline that frightens or humiliates children/ youth and/or vulnerable adults.
- Use profanity in the presence of children/ youth and/or vulnerable adults.

I understand that as a volunteer working with children/ youth and/or vulnerable adults, I am subject to a thorough background check including criminal history. 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/ youth and/or vulnerable adults.

 Volunteer's Printed Name

 Volunteer's Signature

 Date

PLEASE RETURN COMPLETED FORM TO THE OFFICE AT YOUR PRIMARY VOLUNTEER LOCATION AS SOON AS POSSIBLE.