

Policy for Extern Clergy Desiring to Minister in the Diocese of Winona-Rochester

For those exercising ministry fewer than 21 days:

- The Diocese of Winona-Rochester must receive a letter of suitability from the clergy member's diocese / religious institute prior to his visit (please send letters to the Office of the Vicar General)

For clerics exercising ministry 21 days or longer:

- The Diocese of Winona-Rochester must receive a letter of suitability from the clergy member's diocese / religious institute prior to his visit (please send letters to the Office of the Vicar General)
- The clergy member must sign the Diocese of Winona-Rochester's mandatory clergy declaration within 30 days of arriving in the Diocese of Winona-Rochester
- A background check of the cleric must be completed prior to the exercise of ministry
- The local ordinary will grant the cleric faculties and / or permission to minister within the Diocese of Winona-Rochester
- All clerics are to abide by the Diocese of Winona-Rochester's Safe Environment training and updates' requirements

Letter of Suitability

The letter of suitability shall be provided by the ordinary; it must identify the cleric to be a subject of the letter's author and it shall include:

1. He is a priest / deacon in good standing with the Church;
2. He is a priest / deacon of good moral character and reputation;
3. He is qualified to serve as a priest / deacon in an effective and suitable manner;
4. He has never been suspended or otherwise canonically disciplined;
5. He has no criminal record, and neither have any criminal charges ever been brought against him;
6. He has nothing in his background that would indicate he might engage in sexual behavior inconsistent with clerical celibacy;
7. He has nothing in his background that would indicate he might deal with minors in an inappropriate manner;
8. **(For the United States Only):** He has, as mandated by the **Charter for the Protection of Children and Young People**, participated in an approved training session on how to provide a safe environment for children and young people;

9. He has nothing in his background that would raise the suspicion of financial impropriety nor have any accusations of such been ever brought against him;
10. He has not been recently treated for, nor has any current, untreated alcohol or substance abuse problem, or other addictions such as gambling or pornography;
11. He does not have a current, untreated emotional or mental health problem;
12. He has never been involved in any incident which would adversely affect the exercise of his priestly ministry;
13. Any other information that may be relevant to the ministerial suitability of the priest / deacon or that may cause harm or scandal to the local Church, if discovered.