

# Diocese of Brooklyn

## Code of Pastoral Conduct

### For Volunteers

---

Our children 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 Pastoral Conduct as a condition of my providing services to the children, young people and those who habitually lack the use of reason of our Diocese, parishes or affiliated agencies.

#### **As a volunteer I Will**

- Treat everyone, including clergy, religious, parents and other adults and children with respect, loyalty, patience, courtesy, and dignity.
- Represent the teachings of the Catholic Church with integrity in word and action.
- Work collaboratively with the clergy, other supervisors and associates in ministry.
- Avoid situations where I am alone with children, young people and/or those who habitually lack the use of reason before, during or after Church activities.
- Maintain appropriate boundaries in my relationships with children, young people and/or those who habitually lack the use of reason.
- Use positive reinforcement rather than criticism, competition, or comparison when working with children, those who habitually lack the use of reason and/or young people.
- Refuse to accept expensive gifts from children, young people and/or those who habitually lack the use of reason or their parents without prior written approval from the pastor or administrator.
- Refrain from giving gifts to children, young people and/or those who habitually lack the use of reason without prior written approval from the parents or legal guardian and the pastor or administrator.
- Immediately report suspected abuse to the pastor, administrator, or appropriate supervisor and to appropriate authorities as required by law.
- Cooperate fully in any investigation of abuse of children, young people and/or those who habitually lack the use of reason.

#### **As a volunteer I will not**

- Interact with children, young people or those who habitually lack the use of reason through E-mail, social network sites or other forms of electronic communications except for delivering information for the program I am providing.
- Assist children, young people and those who habitually lack the use of reason to access pornography or other sexual material online or influence their exploration of pornography through any media outlet.
- Use parish, school or any agency computers or other electronic communications to participate in chat rooms or engage in social interaction on any social network sites..

- Photograph or use photographs of children, young people and those who habitually lack the use of reason without the explicit permission of the parents or legal guardian.
- Touch a child, young people and/or those who habitually lack the use of reason in a sexual or other inappropriate manner.
- Use, possess, or be under the influence of alcohol or illegal drugs at any time while volunteering in any diocesan, parish or church activity.
- Pose any health risk to children, young people and/or those who habitually lack the use of reason
- Strike, spank, shake, or slap children, young people and/or those who habitually lack the use of reason.
- Humiliate, ridicule, threaten, or degrade children, young people and/or those who habitually lack the use of reason.
- Use any discipline that frightens or humiliates children, young people and/or those who habitually lack the use of reason.
- Use profanity, sexual language or any other inappropriate language in the presence of children, young people and/or those who habitually lack the use of reason.

To: Volunteer

From: Safe Environment Office, Diocese of Brooklyn

Please read the above Code of Pastoral Conduct for Volunteers and keep it as a reference and as part of your records.

**Sign the Agreement Form for Pastoral Codes of Conduct** and return the form to the designated person in your parish (Pastor, DRE, Principal, etc.)

Thank you for Protecting God's Children as well as protecting yourself from false accusations.

For information call:

(718) 281- 9670

or

(718) 281- 9671