

Archdiocese of Indianapolis

Code of Conduct (Revised May 2021)

As a community of faith, we are committed to safeguard our children, who are among the most precious gifts God has entrusted to us. We are committed to the protection of “endangered adults” who are defined by Indiana law as “at least eighteen (18) years of age and incapable by reason of mental illness, mental retardation, dementia, or other physical or mental incapacity of managing or directing the management of the individual’s property or providing or directing the provision of self-care.” Our commitment also extends to vulnerable adults who are defined as “a person eighteen years of age or older who is unable or unlikely to report abuse without assistance because of impairment of physical or mental function, emotional status or deprivation of personal freedom, which may be due to an abuse of power, even if the relationship is between adults that in fact, even occasionally, limits their capacity to intend to or to want or in any way resist the offense.”

The following rules and regulations reflect that commitment and apply to clergy, employees, and volunteers.

I will:

- Safeguard children, endangered adults, and vulnerable adults entrusted to my care at all times.
- Treat everyone with respect, patience, integrity, courtesy, dignity, and consideration.
- Complete safe environment training and read bulletins.
- Avoid situations where I am alone with a child, endangered adult, or vulnerable adult at church/school activities.
- Refrain from giving inappropriate, personal gifts to children, endangered adults, and vulnerable adults.
- Avoid all unnecessary physical contact, especially when alone with a child, endangered adult, or vulnerable adult.
- Obtain permission from a parent/guardian before contacting a child via social media or before posting pictures, video, or other information that may identify him or her.
- Always maintain a professional attitude when dealing with children, endangered adults, and vulnerable adults avoiding emotional attachment and maintaining professional boundaries.
- Report suspected abuse to civil authorities (Indiana Child Protective Services hotline: 800-800-5556 or Indiana Adult Protective Services hotline: 800-992-6978) or to a local law enforcement agency and to the archdiocese (victim assistance coordinator: 800-382-9836, ext. 1548). Report any violations of this code of conduct to the victim assistance coordinator. Confidential reports to the archdiocese can also be made online at www.archdioceseofindianapolis.ethicspoint.com. You do not have to give your name.
- Cooperate fully in any investigation of abuse of children, endangered adults, or vulnerable adults.

I will not:

- Use, possess, or be under the influence of alcohol while overseeing children at any church/school activities or ministering to endangered adults or vulnerable adults.
- Use, possess, or be under the influence of illegal drugs.
- Allow children to have and/or use alcohol or illegal drugs.
- Use profanity or engage in behavior that is harassing or degrading to others.
- Allow children to have, or assist them in gaining access to, pornographic or inappropriate websites, movies, or printed materials.

Signature: _____ Date: _____