



Diocese of Alexandria

Code of Pastoral Conduct for Adults

For Priests, Deacons, Pastoral Ministers,
Administrators, Staff, and 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 Conduct as a condition of my providing services to the children and youth 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 minors at Church activities.
- Use positive reinforcement rather than criticism, competition, or comparison when working with minors.
- Refuse to accept expensive gifts from minors or their parents without prior written approval from the pastor or administrator.
- Refrain from giving expensive gifts to minors 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 minors.

As a volunteer, I will not:

- Smoke or use tobacco products in the presence of minors.
- 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 minors (i.e., no fevers or other contagious situations).
- Strike, spank, shake, or slap minors.
- Humiliate, ridicule, threaten, or degrade minors.
- Touch a minor in a sexual or other inappropriate manner.
- Use any discipline that frightens or humiliates minors.
- Use profanity in the presence of minors.

I understand that as a volunteer working with minors, 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 minors.

Volunteer (Please print)

Volunteer's Signature

Date