

**DIOCESE OF SACRAMENTO
GUIDELINES FOR ADULTS WORKING WITH CHILDREN/YOUTH**

Our children/youth are an important gift that God has entrusted to us. As an adult working with children/youth as part of the ministry of the Diocese of Sacramento, I promise to strictly follow these rules and guidelines as a condition of my providing services to the children and youth of our diocese.

As an adult working with children/youth, I will:

- Treat everyone with respect, loyalty, patience, integrity, courtesy, dignity and consideration.
- Collaborate with other adults in service to children and/or youth.
- Use positive reinforcement rather than criticism, competition, or comparison when working with children and/or youth.
- Refuse to accept expensive gifts from children and/or youth with whom I come into contact in my position within the Diocese.
- Refrain from giving expensive gifts to children and/or youth with whom I come into contact in my position within the Diocese.
- Report suspected abuse (including but not limited to physical abuse, sexual abuse, emotional abuse and neglect) to the pastor, administrator, or appropriate supervisor. If I am a mandated reporter, under California law, I will also report to Child Protective Services.
- Cooperate fully with authorities in any investigation of abuse of children and/or youth.

As an adult working with children/youth, I will not:

- Smoke or use tobacco products in the presence of, or provide these products to, children and/or youth.
- Use, possess, or be under the influence of alcohol at any time while volunteering, and will not make alcohol available to anyone under the age of 21.
- Use, possess, or be under the influence of illegal drugs at any time, and will not make illegal drugs available to children and/or youth.
- Pose any serious health risk to children and/or youth (i.e. contagious illnesses).
- Strike, spank, shake, or slap children and/or youth.
- Humiliate, ridicule, threaten, or degrade children and/or youth.
- Touch a child and/or youth in a sexual or other inappropriate manner.
- Use any discipline that unreasonably frightens or humiliates children and/or youth.
- Use profanity in the presence of children and/or youth.

I understand that as an adult working with children and/or youth as part of the ministry of the Diocese of Sacramento, I must be fingerprinted and receive fingerprint clearance from the California Department of Justice / FBI, prior to beginning any work with children. I understand that any action inconsistent with these Guidelines or failure to take action mandated by these Guidelines may result in my removal from working with children and/or youth in the Diocese of Sacramento.