

CODE OF PASTORAL CONDUCT AND ACCOUNTABILITY

FOR YOUTH WORKING WITH YOUNGER CHILDREN

The Diocese of Calgary requires completion of this form for any person under eighteen years of age who will work or volunteer with younger children. The Diocese, along with your parish thank you for your offer of service. It is a privilege to carry on the mission of Jesus Christ; one that no one should take lightly. As a minor yourself, it is important that you follow certain rules and guidelines, both for your protection and for the protection of those to whom you minister. The Diocese and your parish take the issue of misconduct very seriously. Any instance of your misconduct will be evaluated carefully, and it is very important that you report any instances of misconduct or concern that you see to the adult in charge of your area of service.

General Conduct for Youth Volunteers/Workers

1. Do not be alone or isolated with a child in your care.
2. Do not enter locker rooms, shower rooms or dressing rooms where younger children in your care are present unless there is an emergency.
3. Never transport a younger child who is in your care in a car unless the child is a family member (i.e. your brother/sister a participant in the program in which you are a volunteer).
4. Although children look to you as a role model and friend, you must maintain professional physical boundaries with children. Do not carry a younger child, play piggyback or allow a child to sit on your lap. Infants and babies may be carried as necessary for their care.
5. When on an outing or field trip with younger children, there must be two adults present at all times.
6. Do not accompany a younger child in your care into the restroom unless the child must have assistance. If assistance is required, ask an adult to accompany you or another caregiver.
7. Do not use inappropriate language or jokes when working with younger children. Avoid using sarcasm. Never make fun of a child or put down a child.
8. Never use or have possession of illegal drugs and/or alcohol.
9. Do not use physical force or demeaning language in disciplining younger children in your care.
10. You have a position of responsibility within your parish. In this position you are a role model for younger children. Strive to always live up to the expectations of trust that have been placed in you.
11. If you suspect that a child is being harmed physically, emotionally, or sexually, report this to the

