

CODE OF CONDUCT
VOLUNTEERS WORKING WITH MINORS
IN PARISHES, SCHOOLS AND OTHER ORGANIZATIONS
IN THE DIOCESE OF RAPID CITY

Preamble

Our children and young people 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 Code of Conduct*, as well as the *Code of Conduct* of the Diocese of Rapid City, as it applies to me. My adherence to these rules and guidelines is a condition of my **supervising minors** in the parishes, schools, and other organizations of the Diocese of Rapid City.

As a volunteer, I will:

- Treat everyone with respect, loyalty, patience, integrity, courtesy, dignity, and consideration.
- Avoid situations in which I am alone with a minor.
- Use positive reinforcement rather than criticism, competition, or comparison when working with minors.
- Safeguard my use of technology no matter how innocent around minors.
- Refuse to accept expensive gifts from minors or their parents or legal guardian without prior written approval from the pastor or parish administrator.
- Refrain from giving expensive gifts to minors without prior written approval from their parents or legal guardian and the pastor or parish administrator.
- Report suspected abuse of minors to the pastor, parish administrator or appropriate supervisor and the local Child Protection Services agency or if closed, the local police station.
- Cooperate fully in any investigation of abuse of minors.

As a volunteer, I will not:

- Smoke, vape, or use tobacco products in the presence of minors.
- Use, possess or be under the influence of alcohol at any time while supervising minors as a volunteer.
- Use, possess or be under the influence of illegal drugs at any time.
- Pose any health risk to minors or allow exposure to contagious health conditions.
- Strike, spank, shake or slap minors.
- Humiliate, ridicule, threaten or degrade minors.
- Touch minors in a sexual or other inappropriate manner.
- Use any discipline that frightens or humiliates minors.
- Use profanity in the presence of minors.
- Possess and/or distribute child pornography at any time.

I understand that, as a volunteer supervising minors, I am subject to a thorough background check, including any criminal history. I understand that any action inconsistent with this *Volunteer Code of Conduct* or failure to take action mandated by this *Volunteer Code of Conduct* shall result in my removal as a volunteer supervisor of minors.

Volunteer's Signature _____ Date _____

Volunteer's Printed Name

Printed Name of Sponsoring Organization