



THE ROMAN CATHOLIC DIOCESE OF SCRANTON

Chaperone Code of Conduct Form

As a volunteer for my parish, I have signed the **Diocese of Scranton Code of Pastoral Conduct for all Clergy, Administrators, Staff and Volunteers**. In this document I have agree to the following:

I will:

- Treat everyone with respect, loyalty, patience, integrity, courtesy, dignity, and consideration.
- Avoid situations where I am alone with children and/or youth while working or volunteering at any event or function sponsored by a diocesan parish or school.
- 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 or their parents without prior written approval from the pastor or administrator.
- Refrain from giving expensive gifts to children and/or youth 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 children and/or youth.
- Maintain a standard of morality in public and private life which does not reject the teachings of the Catholic Church.

I will not:

- Smoke or use tobacco products in the presence of children and/or youth.
- Use, possess, or be under the influence of alcohol at any time while working or volunteering.
- Use, possess, or be under the influence of illegal drugs while working or volunteering.
- Pose any health risk to children and/or youth (i.e., no fevers or other contagious situations)
- 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 frightens or humiliates children and/or youth.
- Use profanity in the presence of children and/or youth
- Acquire, possess or distribute sexually explicit images of children under the age of 18 including but not limited to books, photographs, films or computer generated images

I understand:

- I am required to follow the Code of Conduct of all Volunteers, Staff and Administrators of the Diocese of Scranton.
- I agree to a mandatory background check including criminal history and child abuse 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 disciplinary action up to and including removal from my position.
- As a volunteer adult chaperone of the Diocesan Youth Rally, I am responsible for the safety and well-being of the youth of my parish.
- As a volunteer adult chaperone of the Diocesan Youth Rally, I will remain with the youth that have been entrusted to me for the duration of the Diocesan Youth Rally, from the moment they are dropped off at the parish to the moment they are returned to their parents.
- Driving alone with a child and/or youth is to be avoided at all times unless extraordinary circumstances require immediate and prudent action. In such situations, special care should be taken, including all the following:
 - Contact parents and document the outcome of the call
 - Do not sit close to one another in the care
 - Do not come into physical contact with each other
 - Do not stop the car to talk – if you must stop, turn on the inside light of the car
 - Avoid physical contact when saying goodbye
 - Be aware of the time you depart and arrive and make a record of those times

Printed Name: _____

Signature: _____

Date: _____