

OVERNIGHT YOUTH EVENTS

- All chaperones must attend a Safe Conduct In-service and sign a background check release form **prior** to the event.
- All appropriate forms must be completed and submitted to the lead staff person.
- One copy of the appropriate forms should travel with the lead staff member and a copy should stay in the parish /school office.
- The ratio between chaperones to youth should be age appropriate. The younger the child, the smaller the ratio.
- If the participants in the event are male and female, chaperones of both sexes must be present.
- Adults should consider themselves working during the entire event.
- When staying in an hotel, youth should be paired up with an “age appropriate buddy”. Chaperones must be informed of the youths whereabouts at all times.
- Youth and young adults under the age of 25 should not transport other youth in a vehicle during any Church/School related/sponsored event.
- Youth should be assigned rooms according to the same gender. Males should never be present in a females’ room and vice-versa.

MISSION STATEMENT

THE MISSION OF THE CATHOLIC PEOPLE OF INDIANA IS TO PROCLAIM THE KINGDOM OF GOD, TO PRAISE THE NAME OF JESUS AND FOLLOW HIM BY

- *LOVING GOD AND OUR NEIGHBOR, ESPECIALLY THOSE IN NEED;*
- *WORSHIPPING GOD AS A FAITH COMMUNITY IN WORD AND SACRAMENT;*
- *RESPONDING TO ONGOING PERSONAL CONVERSION;*
- *TEACHING OF THE GOSPEL MESSAGE IN THE CATHOLIC TRADITION; AND*
- *ENGAGING IN RENEWAL, OUTREACH, EVANGELIZATION AND ECUMENICAL COOPERATION*

WE, THE PEOPLE OF THE LOCAL CHURCH, GATHERED BY THE POWER OF THE HOLY SPIRIT, ARE COMMITTED TO RESPONSIBLE STEWARDSHIP OF OUR HUMAN AND FINANCIAL RESOURCES.

Diocese of
Lafayette-in-Indiana



BEST PRACTICES REGARDING MINORS

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by
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General Information

Minors, those under the age of nineteen (19), are to be viewed whether in a social or ministerial situation, as “restricted individuals”.

Minors are not independent when participating in youth activities directed by the parish or diocese. Wherever they are and whatever they do is to be with the explicit knowledge of the parent(s) or guardian(s), respecting the boundaries that are explained in these Best Practices and expected between an adult and a minor.

Minors are subject to specific Civil Laws in their own proper state and city which may prohibit certain activities. They are not adults and are not permitted unfettered decisions.

Ministry to Minors

- Reflect on the words of Christ (Matthew 18:6; Mark 9:42; Luke 17:2; Mark 10:13-16)
- Professional attitudes and relationships are observed with minors at all times.
- Two or more adults must be present in all situations involving minors.
- Adults are not alone with a minor in:
 - A home;
 - A closed room;
 - One-on-one games or sports; or
 - A locker room or any other dressing area.
- Youth day trips have two or more adult chaperones

- Boundaries are respected in interactions with minors:
 - Unwarranted physical contact is never appropriate;
 - Adults avoid the trap of “parent figure” or being a “buddy” to a minor;
 - Adults are aware of the influence they have.
- Comments of a sexual nature are only made in response to a specific question and are professionally worded.
- Topics/vocabulary not used in the presence of parents are not used with minors at any time.
- Adults are not :
 - To supply/serve alcohol;
 - To supply/serve controlled substances; or
 - To consume/use/ alcohol or controlled substances.
- Pastoral Counseling should only be conducted by an ordained minister .

Communications with Minors

With the explosion of technology use among minors as well as adults, the following guidelines serve to clarify safe measures in communications between minors and youth ministers, teachers and any adult having contact with minors within our diocese.

- Always avoid the appearance and opportunity for secrecy.
- Never communicate with a minor via text-messaging or instant-messaging.
- Do not put minors on your “buddy list”.
- Do not provide your personal phone number or e-mail address to minors; only to their parents if need be.
- Take great care not to communicate any information regarding a minor on any website.
- Communicate information for a minor with their parents /guardians whenever possible. If parents’ e-mail is not available, send the information in writing to them.
- Personal issues should never be discussed with a minor via e-mail , instant/ text messaging.
- In the event a minor contacts you regarding a personal matter, do not reply and promptly forward the message to the appropriate parent/guardian and individual supervisor. Document the issue and referral.
- Do not participate in social networking sites, such as Facebook and Myspace with minors. Do not give out your personal address or allow access to your personal website.

Reference: Guidelines and Expectations for Use of Technology in Ministry with Minors, V.5,8/2008. St. Theodore Guerin H.S. Administration.

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