



200.41

■ POLICY

□ GUIDELINE

YOUTH PROTECTION

CODE OF CONDUCT FOR YOUTH MINISTRY TEAM MEMBERS

- Youth ministry team members work collaboratively with the pastor, coordinator of youth ministry (and/or other supervisors) and associates in ministry.
- Youth ministry team members faithfully represent and practice the teachings of the Catholic Church with integrity in word and action.
- Youth ministry team members are competent and receive education and training commensurate with their role(s) and responsibilities (§ 231, Code of Canon Law.)
- Youth ministry team members respect the diversity of spiritualities in the faith community and will not make their own personal form of spirituality normative.
- Youth ministry team members recognize the dignity of each person and refrain from behaviors or words that are disrespectful of anyone or any group.
- Youth ministry team members serve all people without regard to gender, national origin, age, marital status, socioeconomic status, or political beliefs.
- Youth ministry team members act to ensure all persons have access to the resources, services and opportunities they require with particular regard for persons with special needs or disabilities.
- Youth ministry team members are accountable to the pastor, coordinator of youth ministry, or other duly appointed representative, under the authority of the diocesan bishop.
- Youth ministry team members are called to serve the faith community, carrying out their ministry "...conscientiously, zealously, and diligently" (§ 231, Code of Canon Law.)
- Youth ministry team members exercise responsible stewardship of resources while holding themselves to the highest standards of integrity regarding fiscal matters placed in their trust.
- Youth ministry team members respect confidentiality, yet are not held to confidentiality in the same way as ordained ministers and licensed, certified counselors.



200.41 (Cont'd)

■ POLICY

□ GUIDELINE

YOUTH PROTECTION

- Youth ministry team members adhere to civil and ecclesial law concerning the reporting of neglect, abuse or when physical harm could come to the person or to a third party.
- Youth ministry team members support the rights and roles of parents while ministering to the needs and concerns of adolescents.
- Youth ministry team members are aware they have considerable personal power because of their ministerial position. Therefore, they will sustain respectful ministerial relationships, avoiding manipulation and other abuses of power.
- Physical, sexual, or romantic relationships between a youth ministry team member and an adolescent are unethical and are prohibited.
- Youth ministry team members model healthy and positive behaviors with adolescents.
- Procuring, providing, or using alcohol and/or controlled substances for or with adolescents is unethical and is prohibited.
- Youth ministry team members are aware of the signs of physical, sexual, and psychological abuse and neglect.
- Youth ministry team members are aware of their limitations with respect to paraprofessional counseling and make appropriate referrals.
- Youth ministry team members adhere to civil and ecclesial law, policy and procedure for reporting abuse, suspected abuse or neglect.
- Youth ministry team members are aware of and comply with all applicable parish, organizational and/or diocesan policies with special attention to sexual misconduct, safety, transportation, parental permission, and medical emergency policies.

I have read and understand the above code of ethics and commit to uphold this code in my ministry.

Signature: _____ Date: _____