

## Catholic Diocese of Evansville Best Practices for Pastoral Conduct

*(For Priests, Deacons, Pastoral Ministers, Administrators, Staff, and Volunteers)*

Our children are the most important gifts God has entrusted to us. As one who works with children in any capacity, I promise to follow these best practices as a condition of my providing services to the children and youth of our diocese.

**I will:**

- a. treat everyone with respect, loyalty, patience, integrity, courtesy, dignity, and consideration.
- b. report any suspected abuse and neglect to the local Child Protection Services agency or civil authorities; then inform the appropriate supervisor
- c. report suspected sexual abuse by diocesan personnel to the local Child Protection Services agency or civil authorities; then inform the victim assistance coordinator.
- d. cooperate fully in any investigation of abuse of children and/or youth.
- e. participate fully in the required training sessions for adults working with children/youth.
- f. refrain from smoking or using tobacco products at any time while serving children and/or youth in parish or diocesan sponsored functions.
- g. refrain from using, possessing, or being under the influence of alcohol or illegal drugs at any time while serving children and/or youth in parish or diocesan functions.

***I understand that failure to report suspected abuse to civil authorities is, according to the law, a Class B misdemeanor. The only exceptions to this requirement involve information learned within the Sacrament of Reconciliation or within an attorney-client relationship.***

I understand that as one who works with children and/or youth in any capacity, I am subject to a thorough criminal history background check.

I understand that any action inconsistent with these best practices may result in termination of my giving services to children and/or youth.

I certify with my signature below that I have read the diocesan policies and procedures regarding sexual misconduct with minors.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Adult's Printed Name

\_\_\_\_\_  
Parish/Agency

\_\_\_\_\_  
Adult's Signature

\_\_\_\_\_  
Today's Date