



Diocese of Steubenville
Safe Environment Program

***CODE OF
CONDUCT***

1. Adults, including clerics, employees or regular volunteers who work with children must be aware of appropriate physical and psychological boundaries between themselves and the children they serve and never engage in any inappropriate behavior with children (See Diocese of Steubenville *Appropriate Boundaries when ministering to or working with Minors**).
2. Adults, including clerics, employees or regular volunteers shall not purchase expensive gifts for children*. Neither shall adults purchase or use tobacco products, alcohol, drugs, or any sexually explicit or violent audiotapes, videotapes or reading materials in the presence of the children they are working with.
3. Adults, including clerics, employees or regular volunteers shall not engage in the acquisition, possession, or distribution of pornographic images of minors* under the age of eighteen, for the purposes of sexual gratification, by whatever means or using whatever technology.
4. Adults, including clerics, employees or regular volunteers, may not engage in scheduled, individual instruction or counseling with a child without the consent of the child's parent or guardian, except where civil law explicitly permits certain persons, e.g. licensed social workers to conduct such meetings. This prohibition shall not apply in an emergency context.
5. A minimum of two adults must be present for any activity sponsored by a parish or diocesan institution, which involves children, with the exception of the Sacrament of Penance, regular day school or parish religious education classes and providing transportation for a school or parish sponsored activity (for which there **must** be more than one student passenger). The term "adult" as used in this policy, excludes 18 or 19 year-old persons who have not graduated from high school.
6. Adults, including clerics, employees or regular volunteers may not use corporal punishment or demeaning language when disciplining a child. Positive reinforcement of good behavior is recommended.
7. No cleric, employee or regular volunteer may allow a child to visit the adult's home without the consent of the parent.
8. No diocesan priest may allow a child to visit a rectory or residence of the diocesan priest or to stay overnight in any site unless accompanied by the parent or guardian of the child.

I have read and agree to abide by the Code of Conduct of the Diocese of Steubenville.

**Throughout this document, "Minor" and "Child(ren)" shall mean a person under eighteen years of age or a physically or mentally handicapped person under twenty-one years of age, or a person who habitually lacks the use of reason.*