



**Diocese of Fall River
Office of Safe Environment**

450 Highland Avenue, Fall River, MA 02720

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Youth Code of Conduct Grades 9-12

For Students/Teenagers Working or Volunteering within the Diocese or attending a Diocesan Sponsored Event

As a Youth Employee/Volunteer/Participant, I will:

- Respect the adults and supervisors with whom I interact.
- Protect and care for all children or other youth in my care.
- Treat everyone with respect, loyalty, patience, integrity, courtesy, and dignity.
- Take care to be positive, supportive, and caring in my speaking, writing, and actions with the children/youth.
- Maintain appropriate sexual, physical, and emotional boundaries with the children/youth.
- Dress appropriately and not wear any clothing with offensive messages or pictures.
- Avoid situations where I am alone with a child/youth.
- Seek to affirm good behavior in children/youth and avoid criticism or comparison that could hurt.
- Tell my supervisor immediately and cooperate with any further questions or investigations if any child or a peer that I am working/volunteering with tells me or I witness that they are being hurt by another person, either physically, sexually, or emotionally.
- Be aware that young people can easily become overly attached to a youth leader or an adult. If I sense that this is happening, I will not encourage it. I will make my parent, supervisor, pastor, or principal aware of it so that he/she can help in the matter.

As a Youth Employee/Volunteer/Participant, I will not:

- Commit an illegal or immoral act.
- Smoke or use tobacco products.
- Use, possess or be under the influence of alcohol or illegal drugs at any time.
- Verbally threaten or physically abuse anyone.
- Use profanity in the presence of children/youth.
- Use discipline that frightens or humiliates a child/youth.
- Touch a child/youth in a sexual, overly affectionate, or other inappropriate manner.
- Sexually harass, request sexual favors from, or make sexually explicit statements to anyone.
- Tolerate inappropriate or bullying behavior.
- Promote any view contrary to the teachings of the Catholic Church.
- Place myself in a situation where my interaction with a child/youth cannot be witnessed.
- Participate in private visits or other activities with the children/youth.
- Use social media for inappropriate contact such as sexting or any form of bullying, humiliation, or intimidation.
- Accept gifts from or give gifts to children/youth.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF THE YOUTH CODE OF CONDUCT

We have read and understand this code of conduct. We understand any action inconsistent with the code will result in the student/teenager employee or volunteer losing the privilege of working or volunteering within the Diocese of Fall River.

Print Student/Teenager Name

Parish/School, City/Town, and Position

Signature of Student/Teenager

Print Name of Parish/School Administrator

Print Parent/Guardian Name

Signature of Parish/School Administrator

Signature of Parent/Guardian

Date: _____