



# Catholic Diocese of Sioux Falls

## Code of Conduct for Adults Ministering to Vulnerable Adults

### **When I am working with other adults I will...**

#### Remember my responsibility to God:

“You shall love the Lord, your God, with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your mind.”  
Matthew 22:36-38

- I will faithfully represent the teachings of the Catholic Church with integrity in word and action.
- I will use the name of God and Jesus Christ with respect, and never in a careless, abusive, or angry manner.
- I will show respect to the Creator by taking care of God’s creation.

#### Remember my responsibility to self:

“Keep on doing what you have learned, and received, and heard, and seen in me.” Philippians 4: 8-9

- I will be mindful that God created each of us in His image and likeness
- I am responsible for my own spiritual, physical, mental, and emotional health.
- I will be truthful, understanding, open-minded, gracious, reliable and respectful.
- I will not gossip, slander, speak with profanities, use malicious speech, or use insensitive attempts at humor.
- I will not use language or behavior that disrespects, degrades, threatens, ridicules, hurts, or humiliates.
- I will refrain from forms of physical aggression and violence.
- I will not consume, show, or provide any sexually explicit or inappropriate material.
- I will not use or be under the influence of alcohol, tobacco, and/or illegal drugs when ministering. I will not possess illegal drugs or drug paraphernalia.
- I will not use or possess weapons while fulfilling my ministry activity.
- I will not steal, destroy, or vandalize.

#### Remember my responsibility to others:

“You shall love your neighbor as yourself.” Matthew 22:39-40

- I will report suspected or known harassment, abuse, and exploitation to my supervisor, law enforcement, Department of Human Services (833) 663-9673 and/or the diocese, (605) 988-3704.
- I will fully cooperate with investigations of suspected or known harassment, abuse, and/or exploitation.
- I will honor and respect the innate dignity given to others and respect their personal boundaries.
- I will remain mindful that a person can experience “deprivation of personal liberty, which, in

fact, even occasionally, limits their ability to understand or to want or otherwise resist” abuse. *Vos Estis Lux Mundi Article 1 §2B*

- I will not engage in behavior that may be misconstrued or misunderstood as having sexual innuendo or with ulterior purpose.
- I will not exploit the trust of the parish, school, minors, or adults for sexual or financial gain.
- I will focus on content relative to my ministry when using email, phone, or social media accounts to communicate with other to whom I minister.
- I will be professional in the way that I share personal information (about myself and others).
- I will always work in and promote an open environment, taking particular care to avoid entirely private or otherwise unobserved situations where no other adults are present or in close proximity.
- I will not isolate, exclude, or show preferential treatment towards others in parish and/or school ministries.
- I will not give expensive gifts to individuals whom I have come to know through ministry in the parish and/or school.
- I will refuse to accept gifts of significant material value given by individuals who are in my spiritual care and/or participants in or beneficiaries of the ministerial work I am assigned to carry out.
- I will use positive reinforcement rather than criticism and avoid making comparisons.
- I will not intentionally expose others to threats to their personal health (i.e. fevers or other contagious situations).
- I will not provide transportation to, or travel alone with, a minor enrolled in a ministry offered by parish or school except in emergency circumstances.
- I will not arrange or approve anyone under 21 to transport minors and/or adults to school and parish events. I understand event transportation is arranged and approved by school, parish, and/or diocesan administration.