

Diocese of Wheeling-Charleston Office of Youth and Young Adult Ministry
Professional Code of Ethics

All those of who minister to youth through the diocesan Office of Youth and Young Adult Ministry will refer to this document, the Policies and Procedures Concerning Sexual Misconduct, and the staff manual of their specific program for direction concerning the policies and procedures concerning behavior. All of the young people in the diocese deserve to have our Catholic youth programs run by leaders that behave professionally. In order to work as a youth leader for diocesan programs you must agree to conduct yourself as a professional.

Professional youth ministers:

1. Actively seek personal spiritual growth experiences.
2. Go to Mass regularly and engage in a sacramental life.
3. Do not have alcoholic beverages at their professional events with under age persons.
4. Do not drink alcohol with under age persons.
5. Do not drink alcoholic beverages excessively or use illegal drugs.
6. Do not use tobacco products at youth events or around kids.
7. Let the Holy Spirit guide the words that they speak.
8. Avoid debasing jokes, sexual innuendo, racial slurs and abusive language.
9. Follow the Policies and Procedures Concerning Ethics, Sexual Misconduct, Transportation, Lodging and Sexual Harassment.
10. Foster the Godly mental, spiritual and social maturation of children. We protect the innocence of children.
11. Use positive reinforcement and communication rather than criticism, unhealthy competition or comparison.
12. Avoid any form of excessive familiarity, inappropriate language, or any situation and conduct that exploits or could give the appearance of exploiting another.
13. Behave only in ways that are public, appropriate, and non-sexual with minors and all they minister to (both in person and digitally).
14. Do not purchase, download, possess, or distribute pornography.

1 Corinthians 8: 8-13 calls us to be conscious of the example that we set for those in our care. “Now food will not bring us closer to God. We are no worse off if we do not eat, nor are we better off if we do. But, make sure that this liberty of yours in no way becomes a stumbling block to the weak. If someone sees you, with your knowledge, reclining at table in the temple of an idol, may not his conscience, too weak as it is, be “built up” to eat the meat sacrificed to idols? Thus through your knowledge, the weak person is brought to destruction, the brother for whom Christ died. When you sin in this way, against your brothers and wound their consciences, weak as they are, you are sinning against Christ. Therefore, if food causes my brother to sin, I will never eat meat again, so that I may not cause my brother to sin.” 1 Corinthians 8: 8-13

I have read, understood, and will act on the expectations for me as a youth leader. My signature says that I agree to uphold these standards. Any misrepresentation of information on my staff application may be considered grounds for termination.

Signature: _____ Date: _____

Printed Name: _____

**BACKGROUND SCREENING RELEASE FORM
FOR EMPLOYEES AND VOLUNTEERS**

Confidentiality Notice: All information on this form is held in the strictest of confidence. The purpose of this information is to insure the accuracy of information pertaining to the applicant.

PLEASE PRINT THE BELOW INFORMATION

Name: _____
Last First Middle

Address: _____
Street County

Mailing Address (if different from above): _____
City State Zip

Home Phone: (____) _____ Work Phone: (____) _____

Social Security Number - - Date of Birth - -
Month Day Year

Driver's License Number: _____ State: _____

Previous Address (if different from above): _____
City State Zip

(Please check what applies) If you are currently employed by any Catholic Organization of the Diocese of Wheeling - Charleston you will need to check the employee box.

Employee Where: _____
 Volunteer Where: _____

Authorization to release criminal history information reports, private companies' dishonesty, drug offense or violence reports, or motor vehicle reports.

I hereby authorize the Diocese of Wheeling-Charleston to make inquiries to Screening One, a consumer reporting agency, concerning my suitability and qualification; including any public record of any arrest or convictions for crimes of violence or dishonesty; any incidents of employment dishonesty, retail theft, or other employment related acts of dishonesty, violence or drug related offenses reported to Screening One.

I further authorize any governmental agency where such arrest or conviction information is on file, and Screening One, to disseminate such report(s) to the Diocese of Wheeling-Charleston. During any period(s) while I may be employed by and/or volunteer, I hereby authorize the Diocese of Wheeling-Charleston to make further like inquires to Screening One as the Diocese of Wheeling-Charleston may, from time to time, deem necessary. I also hereby authorize Screening One to issue such reports in response to the Diocese of Wheeling-Charleston's inquiry. I waive any future notice with respect to the Diocese of Wheeling-Charleston's inquiries or with respect to such governmental agencies, Screening One's, dissemination of any such report(s) to the Diocese of Wheeling-Charleston, and hereby generally release and fully discharge the Diocese of Wheeling-Charleston and Screening One from and against any and all liability with respect to, or arising from, the release or dissemination of any such information for such purposes.

I understand and agree that my involvement with the Diocese of Wheeling-Charleston: its Parishes, School, Diocesan Institutions and Diocesan Services, may be determined, in whole or in part, based on the report(s) so issued to the Diocese of Wheeling-Charleston by Screening One. I have been informed and I understand that I may request a copy of such report and that I may dispute the accuracy or completeness of the information reported to the Diocese of Wheeling-Charleston by writing or calling the employer of Screening One and requesting a copy of the report.

(X) _____
Signature Date