

Code of Conduct

Archdiocese of Keewatin – The Pas

Code of Conduct

For ministers and volunteers in contact with young children, adolescents and vulnerable adults.

1. The preparation of children for the celebration of the sacraments of first reconciliation, first communion and confirmation is to be done in a group format with at least two adults present. One-on-one instruction without another adult in the location is forbidden.
2. The celebration of the sacrament of reconciliation with children is to be done in an open space that allows the penitent and the priest to be in full view of others, or in a traditional confessional.
3. The location of reconciliation rooms is to be in a high traffic area of the church building. Any new construction or renovation of reconciliation rooms is to provide clear glass openings.
4. Two adults are to be present for all recreational and catechetical programs. No adult shall be alone in a washroom with a child. In case of special needs, agreement shall be made between the parents or guardian and the Diocesan employee or volunteer.
5. One-on-one counseling with adults is to be conducted in a space with clear glass openings during appropriate hours.
6. Access to rectories is to be restricted. Any Diocesan employee (any priest, religious sister, brother, deacon, or lay person in a ministry agreement with the Diocese) is not to be alone with a child, an adolescent or a vulnerable adult in his or her living quarters or motor vehicle.
7. A Diocesan employee is not to take a person under 19 years of age on personal trips or vacations.
8. The Diocesan employee will set appropriate boundaries in his or her relationships with others. It is not up to the person coming for help to set the boundaries, but the Diocesan employee must set the appropriate boundaries. For example, a Diocesan employee is not to be alone with a child in a washroom. Requests for one-on-one counseling at unusual times or situations are redirected to appropriate times and situations, etc.
9. Expensive gifts are not to be given to or accepted from a child, an adolescent or a vulnerable adult.
10. Signs of affection are to be discrete and culturally appropriate, preferably in view of others.