

Volunteer Application Packet Instructions

1. Complete the **Volunteer Service Request Form** and don't forget to sign and date where indicated. (2 signatures)
2. Fill out the ★ **Background Check Information Form** and be sure to sign the **Authorization For Background Checks Form**. These forms are required so a background check can be completed. All sensitive information is kept secure and confidential.
3. Sign and date the **Volunteer Code of Conduct** and **Acknowledgment Form** that you have received the Diocese's Code of Conduct and Child Protection Policy. Additional information about the Diocesan policy for Child Protection is available at their website. www.drvc.org
4. The Diocese requires **VIRTUS** training for all volunteers. Training is available at various locations but you must pre-register online. Registration instructions are included to assist you. When you attend the VIRTUS session, you will receive a proof of attendance certificate that must be returned before you can begin to volunteer.

Please submit your signed and dated forms along with your proof of VIRTUS training to the parish. You can begin to volunteer when ALL of the above steps have been completed. A member of our pastoral team will contact you when this occurs.

Thank you for your cooperation as we work together for a safe environment for our parish community.

Father Irinel Racos
Pastor



Volunteer Service Request Form

Entity: Saint Elizabeth of Hungary Church

REQUEST

Please complete all this information, sign and date it. Please print.

Name _____ Home Phone #: _____
Last First Middle Cell Phone #: _____

Social Security Number: _____ Date of Birth _____

E-Mail Address: _____

Address _____
Street Location (Not PO Box)

For checking prior records, provide other names you have used: _____

Ministry or Ministries Requested: _____

How long have you been a member of our parish or school community? _____

Circle the days you can volunteer: M T W T F S S

List times you are available each day: _____

Have you previously volunteered for a church ministry? If YES, please list the date(s), parish or school name and location, and the ministry you performed.

List any training for church ministry you have received: _____

Have you ever been discharged from volunteering for any reason? Yes No

If Yes, please explain _____

Have you ever been convicted of a crime other than a minor traffic violation? Yes No

If Yes, please explain _____

Do you currently use illegal drugs? Yes No

Are you aware of any situation that would affect your ability to serve as a volunteer? Yes No

If Yes, please explain _____

What level of education have you attained? <ES ES HS AA/AS BA/BS
 MA/ MS >MA/ MS

List foreign languages you know and indicate level of proficiency and fluency:
Speak: _____ Read : _____ Write: _____

What computer software do you know? _____

Typing _____ wpm Drivers License Type: Chauffeur Commercial Regular

Date Signature of Volunteer



APPROVAL

FOR ADMINISTRATOR USE ONLY

Request to serve as a volunteer: Approved Denied

_____ VL _____
Approved Ministry Dept. ID

Start Date ____/____/____ Supervisor _____

Conditions: _____

Request Approved by: _____
Signature Date

Print Signer's Name and Title _____

PLEASE READ THE FOLLOWING CAREFULLY UPON APPROVAL OF YOUR REQUEST

1. I have read this entire form. I understand and agree to all of its contents. I certify that all answers given on this form are true and complete to the best of my knowledge, and I understand that falsification in any detail is grounds for disqualification from further consideration or for dismissal from any volunteer role with a parish, school or other entity.
2. I agree to inform the parish, school or other entity of any changes to the foregoing information.
3. I acknowledge receipt of the Diocesan Child Protection Policy, which consists of the Code of Pastoral Conduct and the Volunteer's Code of Conduct , agree to read it and be responsible to follow the policies and procedures it contains.
4. I understand that I must comply with the policies, rules and precepts of the entity I serve.



_____ Date _____ Signature of Volunteer

FOR ADMINISTRATOR USE ONLY

- | | |
|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Screening Form Completed | <input type="checkbox"/> Child Protection Policy Provided |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Volunteer Entered into PayForce Database | <input type="checkbox"/> Screening Registered |

VIRTUS Training Scheduled: _____ **VIRTUS** Training Occurred: _____

Notes: _____

BACKGROUND CHECK INFORMATION

The information requested below is collected solely for the purpose of aiding the Consumer Reporting Agency (CRA) in completing a background check on you.

First Name Middle Name (required) Last Name Suffix

Email Address: _____

For Identification Purposes Only: Date of Birth ____/____/____ (Month/Day/Year)

Social Security Number _____

Driver's License Number _____ State Issuing License _____

Enter Nickname(s) Used _____

Enter Any Other Names Used (including maiden names):

First Name _____ Middle Name _____ Last Name _____

First Name _____ Middle Name _____ Last Name _____

First Name _____ Middle Name _____ Last Name _____

Addresses Within The Past Seven Years

Present Street Address _____

City/State/ZIP _____

From ____/____/____ (Month/Day/Year) To ____/____/____ (Month/Day/Year)

Prior Street Address _____

Prior City/State/ZIP _____

From ____/____/____ (Month/Day/Year) To ____/____/____ (Month/Day/Year)

BACKGROUND CHECK DISCLOSURE

The Parish/School of Saint Elizabeth of Hungary may obtain a consumer report(s) (also known as a background check report) about you from a consumer reporting agency for employment purposes, including as an applicant for employment or from time to time during your employment.

THE REMAINDER OF THIS DOCUMENT IS INTENTIONALLY LEFT BLANK.

A Summary of Your Rights Under the Fair Credit Reporting Act

The federal Fair Credit Reporting Act (FCRA) promotes the accuracy, fairness, and privacy of information in the files of consumer reporting agencies. There are many types of consumer reporting agencies, including credit bureaus and specialty agencies (such as agencies that sell information about check writing histories, medical records, and rental history records). Here is a summary of your major rights under the FCRA. **For more information, including information about additional rights, go to www.consumerfinance.gov/learnmore or write to: Consumer Financial Protection Bureau, 1700 G Street N.W., Washington, DC 20552.**

- **You must be told if information in your file has been used against you.** Anyone who uses a credit report or another type of consumer report to deny your application for credit, insurance, or employment – or to take another adverse action against you – must tell you, and must give you the name, address, and phone number of the agency that provided the information.
- **You have the right to know what is in your file.** You may request and obtain all the information about you in the files of a consumer reporting agency (your “file disclosure”). You will be required to provide proper identification, which may include your Social Security number. In many cases, the disclosure will be free. You are entitled to a free file disclosure if:
 - a person has taken adverse action against you because of information in your credit report;
 - you are the victim of identity theft and place a fraud alert in your file;
 - your file contains inaccurate information as a result of fraud;
 - you are on public assistance;
 - you are unemployed but expect to apply for employment within 60 days.

In addition, all consumers are entitled to one free disclosure every 12 months upon request from each nationwide credit bureau and from nationwide specialty consumer reporting agencies. See www.consumerfinance.gov/learnmore for additional information.

- **You have the right to ask for a credit score.** Credit scores are numerical summaries of your credit-worthiness based on information from credit bureaus. You may request a credit score from consumer reporting agencies that create scores or distribute scores used in residential real property loans, but you will have to pay for it. In some mortgage transactions, you will receive credit score information for free from the mortgage lender.
- **You have the right to dispute incomplete or inaccurate information.** If you identify information in your file that is incomplete or inaccurate, and report it to the consumer reporting agency, the agency must investigate unless your dispute is frivolous. See www.consumerfinance.gov/learnmore for an explanation of dispute procedures.
- **Consumer reporting agencies must correct or delete inaccurate, incomplete, or unverifiable information.** Inaccurate, incomplete or unverifiable information must be removed or corrected, usually within 30 days. However, a consumer reporting agency may continue to report information it has verified as accurate.
- **Consumer reporting agencies may not report outdated negative information.** In most cases, a consumer reporting agency may not report negative information that is more than seven years old, or bankruptcies that are more than 10 years old.
- **Access to your file is limited.** A consumer reporting agency may provide information about you only to people with a valid need – usually to consider an application with a creditor, insurer, employer, landlord, or other business. The FCRA specifies those with a valid need for access.
- **You must give your consent for reports to be provided to employers.** A consumer reporting agency may not give out information about you to your employer, or a potential employer, without your written consent given to the employer. Written consent generally is not required in the trucking industry. For more information, go to www.consumerfinance.gov/learnmore.
- **You may limit “prescreened” offers of credit and insurance you get based on information in your credit report.** Unsolicited “prescreened” offers for credit and insurance must include a toll-free phone number you can call if you choose to remove your name and address from the lists these offers are based on. You may opt-out with the nationwide credit bureaus at 1-888-567-8688.
- The following FCRA right applies with respect to nationwide consumer reporting agencies:

CONSUMERS HAVE THE RIGHT TO OBTAIN A SECURITY FREEZE

You have a right to place a “security freeze” on your credit report, which will prohibit a consumer reporting agency from releasing information in your credit report without your express authorization. The security freeze is designed to prevent credit, loans, and services from being approved in your name without your consent. However, you should be aware that using a security freeze to take control over who gets access to the personal and financial information in your credit report may delay, interfere with, or prohibit the timely approval of any subsequent request or application you make regarding a new loan, credit, mortgage, or any other account involving the extension of credit.

As an alternative to a security freeze, you have the right to place an initial or extended fraud alert on your credit file at no cost. An initial fraud alert is a 1-year alert that is placed on a consumer's credit file. Upon seeing a fraud alert display on a consumer's credit file, a business is required to take steps to verify the consumer's identity before extending new credit. If you are a victim of identity theft, you are entitled to an extended fraud alert, which is a fraud alert lasting 7 years.

A security freeze does not apply to a person or entity, or its affiliates, or collection agencies acting on behalf of the person or entity, with which you have an existing account that requests information in your credit report for the purposes of reviewing or collecting the account. Reviewing the account includes activities related to account maintenance, monitoring, credit line increases, and account upgrades and enhancements.

- **You may seek damages from violators.** If a consumer reporting agency, or, in some cases, a user of consumer reports or a furnisher of information to a consumer reporting agency violates the FCRA, you may be able to sue in state or federal court.
- **Identity theft victims and active duty military personnel have additional rights.** For more information, visit www.consumerfinance.gov/learnmore.

States may enforce the FCRA, and many states have their own consumer reporting laws. In some cases, you may have more rights under state law. For more information, contact your state or local consumer protection agency or your state Attorney General. For information about your federal rights, contact:

TYPE OF BUSINESS:	CONTACT:
<p>1.a. Banks, savings associations, and credit unions with total assets of over \$10 billion and their affiliates.</p> <p>b. Such affiliates that are not banks, savings associations, or credit unions also should list, in addition to the CFPB:</p>	<p>a. Consumer Financial Protection Bureau 1700 G Street, N.W. Washington, DC 20552</p> <p>b. Federal Trade Commission: Consumer Response Center 600 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W. Washington, DC 20580 (877) 382-4357</p>
<p>2. To the extent not included in item 1 above:</p> <p>a. National banks, federal savings associations, and federal branches and federal agencies of foreign banks</p> <p>b. State member banks, branches and agencies of foreign banks (other than federal branches, federal agencies, and Insured State Branches of Foreign Banks), commercial lending companies owned or controlled by foreign banks, and organizations operating under section 25 or 25A of the Federal Reserve Act</p> <p>c. Nonmember Insured Banks, Insured State Branches of Foreign Banks, and insured state savings associations</p> <p>d. Federal Credit Unions</p>	<p>a. Office of the Comptroller of the Currency Customer Assistance Group 1301 McKinney Street, Suite 3450 Houston, TX 77010-9050</p> <p>b. Federal Reserve Consumer Help Center P.O. Box 1200 Minneapolis, MN 55480</p> <p>c. FDIC Consumer Response Center 1100 Walnut Street, Box # 11 Kansas City, MO 64106</p> <p>d. National Credit Union Administration Office of Consumer Financial Protection (OCFP) Division of Consumer Compliance Policy and Outreach 1775 Duke Street Alexandria, VA 22314</p>
<p>3. Air carriers</p>	<p>Asst. General Counsel for Aviation Enforcement & Proceedings Aviation Consumer Protection Division Department of Transportation 1200 New Jersey Avenue, S.E. Washington, DC 20590</p>
<p>4. Creditors Subject to the Surface Transportation Board</p>	<p>Office of Proceedings, Surface Transportation Board Department of Transportation 395 E Street, S.W. Washington, DC 20423</p>
<p>5. Creditors Subject to the Packers and Stockyards Act, 1921</p>	<p>Nearest Packers and Stockyards Administration area supervisor</p>
<p>6. Small Business Investment Companies</p>	<p>Associate Deputy Administrator for Capital Access United States Small Business Administration 409 Third Street, S.W., Suite 8200 Washington, DC 20416</p>
<p>7. Brokers and Dealers</p>	<p>Securities and Exchange Commission 100 F Street, N.E. Washington, DC 20549</p>
<p>8. Federal Land Banks, Federal Land Bank Associations, Federal Intermediate Credit Banks, and Production Credit Associations</p>	<p>Farm Credit Administration 1501 Farm Credit Drive McLean, VA 22102-5090</p>
<p>9. Retailers, Finance Companies, and All Other Creditors Not Listed Above</p>	<p>Federal Trade Commission: Consumer Response Center 600 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W. Washington, DC 20580 (877) 382-4357</p>

NEW YORK CORRECTION LAW
ARTICLE 23-A
LICENSURE AND EMPLOYMENT OF PERSONS PREVIOUSLY
CONVICTED OF ONE OR MORE CRIMINAL OFFENSES

Section 750. Definitions.

751. Applicability.

752. Unfair discrimination against persons previously convicted of one or more criminal offenses prohibited.

753. Factors to be considered concerning a previous criminal conviction; presumption.

754. Written statement upon denial of license or employment.

755. Enforcement.

§750. Definitions. For the purposes of this article, the following terms shall have the following meanings:

- (1) "Public agency" means the state or any local subdivision thereof, or any state or local department, agency, board or commission.
- (2) "Private employer" means any person, company, corporation, labor organization or association which employs ten or more persons.
- (3) "Direct relationship" means that the nature of criminal conduct for which the person was convicted has a direct bearing on his fitness or ability to perform one or more of the duties or responsibilities necessarily related to the license, opportunity, or job in question.
- (4) "License" means any certificate, license, permit or grant of permission required by the laws of this state, its political subdivisions or instrumentalities as a condition for the lawful practice of any occupation, employment, trade, vocation, business, or profession. Provided, however, that "license" shall not, for the purposes of this article, include any license or permit to own, possess, carry, or fire any explosive, pistol, handgun, rifle, shotgun, or other firearm.
- (5) "Employment" means any occupation, vocation or employment, or any form of vocational or educational training. Provided, however, that "employment" shall not, for the purposes of this article, include membership in any law enforcement agency.

§751. Applicability. The provisions of this article shall apply to any application by any person for a license or employment at any public or private employer, who has previously been convicted of one or more criminal offenses in this state or in any other jurisdiction, and to any license or employment held by any person whose conviction of one or more criminal offenses in this state or in any other jurisdiction preceded such employment or granting of a license, except where a mandatory forfeiture, disability or bar to employment is imposed by law, and has not been removed by an executive pardon, certificate of relief from disabilities or certificate of good conduct. Nothing in this article shall be construed to affect any right an employer may have with respect to an intentional misrepresentation in connection with an application for employment made by a prospective employee or previously made by a current employee.

§752. Unfair discrimination against persons previously convicted of one or more criminal offenses prohibited. No application for any license or employment, and no employment or license held by an individual, to which the provisions of this article are applicable, shall be denied or acted upon adversely by reason of the individual's having been previously convicted of one or more criminal offenses, or by reason of a finding of lack of "good moral character" when such finding is based upon the fact that the individual has previously been convicted of one or more criminal offenses, unless:

- (1) There is a direct relationship between one or more of the previous criminal offenses and the specific license or employment sought or held by the individual; or
- (2) the issuance or continuation of the license or the granting or continuation of the employment would involve an unreasonable risk to property or to the safety or welfare of specific individuals or the general public.

§753. Factors to be considered concerning a previous criminal conviction; presumption.

1. In making a determination pursuant to section seven hundred fifty-two of this chapter, the public agency or private employer shall consider the following factors:

- (a) The public policy of this state, as expressed in this act, to encourage the licensure and employment of persons previously convicted of one or more criminal offenses.
- (b) The specific duties and responsibilities necessarily related to the license or employment sought or held by the person.
- (c) The bearing, if any, the criminal offense or offenses for which the person was previously convicted will have on his fitness or ability to perform one or more such duties or responsibilities.
- (d) The time which has elapsed since the occurrence of the criminal offense or offenses.
- (e) The age of the person at the time of occurrence of the criminal offense or offenses.
- (f) The seriousness of the offense or offenses.
- (g) Any information produced by the person, or produced on his behalf, in regard to his rehabilitation and good conduct.
- (h) The legitimate interest of the public agency or private employer in protecting property, and the safety and welfare of specific individuals or the general public.

2. In making a determination pursuant to section seven hundred fifty-two of this chapter, the public agency or private employer shall also give consideration to a certificate of relief from disabilities or a certificate of good conduct issued to the applicant, which certificate shall create a presumption of rehabilitation in regard to the offense or offenses specified therein.

§754. Written statement upon denial of license or employment. At the request of any person previously convicted of one or more criminal offenses who has been denied a license or employment, a public agency or private employer shall provide, within thirty days of a request, a written statement setting forth the reasons for such denial.

§755. Enforcement.

1. In relation to actions by public agencies, the provisions of this article shall be enforceable by a proceeding brought pursuant to article seventy-eight of the civil practice law and rules.
2. In relation to actions by private employers, the provisions of this article shall be enforceable by the division of human rights pursuant to the powers and procedures set forth in article fifteen of the executive law, and, concurrently, by the New York city commission on human rights.

ADDITIONAL BACKGROUND CHECK DISCLOSURES

DISCLOSURE FOR REGULATED TRANSPORTATION POSITIONS: The consumer reporting agency ADP Screening and Selection Services, Inc. (ADP SASS) will prepare the consumer report (background report) for Saint Elizabeth of Hungary Church (the "Company"). ADP SASS is located at 301 Remington Street, Fort Collins, CO, 80524, and can be reached by phone at 800-367-5933 or at www.adpselect.com. ADP SASS does not make any decisions to take adverse action. If the Company makes a decision to take adverse action based in whole or in part on the consumer report, ADP SASS will not be able to provide specific reasons why the adverse action was taken.

You have the right to obtain a free copy of a consumer report on you from the consumer reporting agency which prepared your background report, under various circumstances, including but not limited to where you receive notice that an adverse action has been taken toward you based on the consumer report. In that instance, you have the right to a free copy of the report provided that you make the request within 60 days of the date that you received the notice of adverse action. You have the right to dispute, with the consumer reporting agency, the accuracy or completeness of any information in a consumer report furnished by the agency.

If you live or work for the Company in any of the states below, please note that additional rights may apply to you. These rights are in addition to the rights that federal law grants to *everyone* nationwide.

MASSACHUSETTS: If you submit a request to the Company in writing, you have the right to know whether the Company ordered an investigative consumer report from ADP Screening and Selection Services, Inc. (ADP SASS). An investigative consumer report may include any or all of the following pertaining to you, as allowed by law: credit history; public records; a Social Security number verification; driving records; military service; credentials/certifications; and verification of prior employment and education. You may inspect and order a free copy of the report by contacting ADP SASS at: 301 Remington Street, Fort Collins, CO, 80524; (telephone) 800-367-5933; or www.adpselect.com.

MINNESOTA: If you submit a request to ADP Screening and Selection Services, Inc. (ADP SASS) in writing, you have the right to receive a complete and accurate disclosure of the nature and scope of the consumer report or investigative consumer report ordered by the Company. ADP SASS can be reached at: 301 Remington Street, Fort Collins, CO, (telephone) 800-367-5933; or www.adpselect.com.

NEW JERSEY: If you submit a request to the Company in writing, you have the right to know whether the Company ordered an investigative consumer report from ADP Screening and Selection Services, Inc. (ADP SASS). An investigative consumer report may contain the following information pertaining to you, as applicable: credit history; public records; a Social Security number verification; driving records; military service; credentials/certifications; and verification of prior employment and education. You may inspect and order a free copy of the report by contacting ADP SASS at: 301 Remington Street, Fort Collins, CO, 80524; (telephone) 800-367-5933; or www.adpselect.com.

NEW YORK: If you submit a request to the Company in writing, you have the right to know whether the Company ordered a consumer report or an investigative consumer report from ADP Screening and Selection Services, Inc. (ADP SASS) that may contain the following information pertaining to you: credit history; public records; a Social Security number verification; driving records; military service; credentials/certifications; and verification of prior employment and education. You may inspect and order a free copy of the report(s) by contacting ADP SASS. By signing the separate document called the Authorization for Background Checks, you agree that you have received a copy of Article 23A of the New York Correction Law (provided with this document).

AUTHORIZATION FOR BACKGROUND CHECKS

I instruct and authorize __Saint Elizabeth of Hungary Church____ Parish/School (the "Company") to obtain a consumer report(s) (or background check report(s)) on me, including any investigative consumer reports and any consumer credit reports.* I also agree that a copy of this form is valid like the signed original.

The consumer reporting agency (CRA) ADP Screening and Selection Services, Inc. (ADP SASS) will conduct the background check and prepare the background check report for the Company. ADP SASS is located at 301 Remington Street, Fort Collins, CO, 80524, and can be reached by phone at 800-367-5933, or at www.adpselect.com.

I understand that, as allowed by applicable law, the Company may rely on this authorization to order additional background check reports, including investigative consumer reports and any consumer credit reports* (1) during my employment or time as a volunteer or independent contractor, as applicable, and (2) from any CRA other than ADP SASS without asking me for my authorization again. I understand the Company may order background check report(s) under my legal name and any other names I may have used.

I also instruct and authorize the following persons, agencies, and entities to disclose to ADP SASS and its agents all information about or concerning me, as allowed by law, including but not limited to: my past or present employers; learning institutions, including colleges and universities; law enforcement and all other federal, state and local agencies; federal, state and local courts; the military; credit bureaus; testing facilities; motor vehicle records agencies; all other private and public sector repositories of information; and any other person, organization, or agency with any information about or concerning me. As allowed by law, such disclosures may contain the following information pertaining to me: credit history*; public records; a Social Security number verification; driving records; military service; credentials/certifications; worker's compensation injuries; and verification of prior employment and education.

***I understand that I am instructing and authorizing the Company to obtain a consumer credit report only to the extent permitted by law. If I reside or anticipate being employed in New York City, I understand that I am not being asked to authorize a consumer credit report by signing this document.**

By signing below, I understand that I am agreeing to the terms contained in this document.

Please print your full legal name:

Last Name _____ First _____ Middle _____



_____/_____/_____
Signature Today's Date (Month/Day/Year)

Code of Pastoral Conduct

For Priests, Deacons, Pastoral Ministers, Administrators, Staff & Volunteers

IV. Volunteer's Code of Conduct

Our children are the most important gifts God has entrusted to us. As a volunteer, I promise to strictly follow the rules and guidelines in this Volunteer's Code of Conduct as a condition of my providing services to the children and youth of our *[parish, school, facility, diocese, etc.]*.

As a volunteer, I will:

- Treat everyone with respect, loyalty, patience, integrity, courtesy, dignity, and consideration.
- Avoid situations where I am alone with children and/or youth at Church activities.
- Use positive reinforcement rather than criticism, competition, or comparison when working with children and/or youth.
- Refuse to accept expensive gifts from children and/or youth or their parents without prior written approval from the pastor or administrator.
- Refrain from giving expensive gifts to children and/or youth without prior written approval from the parents or guardian and the pastor or administrator.
- Report suspected abuse to the pastor, administrator, or appropriate supervisor and *[the local Child Protection Services agency]*. I understand that failure to report suspected abuse to civil authorities is, according to the law, a misdemeanor.
- Cooperate fully in any investigation of abuse of children and/or youth.

As a volunteer, I will not:

- Smoke or use tobacco products in the presence of children and/or youth.
- Use, possess, or be under the influence of alcohol at any time while volunteering.
- Use, possess, or be under the influence of illegal drugs at any time.
- Pose any health risk to children and/or youth (i.e., no fevers or other contagious situations).
- Strike, spank, shake, or slap children and/or youth.
- Humiliate, ridicule, threaten, or degrade children and/or youth.
- Touch a child and/or youth in a sexual or other inappropriate manner.
- Use any discipline that frightens or humiliates children and/or youth.
- Use profanity in the presence of children and/or youth.
- Possess distribute or acquire, in any form images of child/youth pornography.
- Have on my possession weapons or incendiary devices in any form while on Church property or in attendance at Church sponsored activities.

I understand that as a volunteer working with children and/or youth, I am subject to a thorough background check including criminal history. I understand that any action inconsistent with this Code of Conduct or failure to take action mandated by this Code of Conduct may result in my removal as a volunteer with children and/or youth.



Volunteer Signature

Date



DIOCESE OF Rockville Centre
OFFICE FOR THE PROTECTION OF CHILDREN & YOUNG PEOPLE

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

I, _____ on _____ (date); have received the following documents and my signature below indicate that I will review each document in its entirety:

- Code of Pastoral Conduct
- Signed Volunteer Code of Conduct
- VIRTUS-** Diocesan Child Protection Policy, Diocese of Rockville Centre.



Volunteer Signature: _____

St. Elizabeth of Hungary Parish

Code of Pastoral Conduct

For Priests, Deacons, Pastoral Ministers, Administrators, Staff & Volunteers

Table of Contents

I. Preamble

II. Responsibility

III. Pastoral Standards

1. Conduct for Pastoral Counselors and Spiritual Directors
2. Confidentiality
3. Conduct with Youth
4. Sexual Conduct
5. Harassment
6. Parish, Religious Community/Institute, and Organizational Records and Information
7. Conflicts of Interest
8. Reporting Ethical or Professional Misconduct
9. Administration
10. Staff or Volunteer Well-being

IV. Volunteer's Code of Conduct

Code of Pastoral Conduct

For Priests, Deacons, Pastoral Ministers, Administrators, Staff & Volunteers

I. Preamble

Priests, deacons, pastoral ministers, administrators, staff, and volunteers in our parishes, religious communities/institutes, and organizations must uphold Christian values and conduct. The *Model Code of Pastoral Conduct for Priests, Deacons, Pastoral Ministers, Administrators, Staff, and Volunteers (Code of Pastoral Conduct)* provides a set of standards for conduct in certain pastoral situations.

II. Responsibility

The public and private conduct of clergy, staff, and volunteers can inspire and motivate people, but it can also scandalize and undermine the people's faith. Clergy, staff, and volunteers must, at all times, be aware of the responsibilities that accompany their work. They must also know that God's goodness and grace supports them in their ministry.

Responsibility for adherence to the *Code of Pastoral Conduct* rests with the individual. Clergy, staff, and volunteers who disregard this *Code of Pastoral Conduct* will be subject to remedial action by the *Diocese of Rockville Centre*. Corrective action may take various forms—from a verbal reproach to removal from the ministry—depending on the specific nature and circumstances of the offense and the extent of the harm.

III. Pastoral Standards

1. Conduct for Pastoral Counselors and Spiritual Directors¹

Pastoral Counselors and Spiritual Directors must respect the rights and advance the welfare of each person.

- 1.1 Pastoral Counselors and Spiritual Directors shall not step beyond their competence in counseling situations and shall refer clients to other professionals when appropriate.
- 1.2 Pastoral Counselors and Spiritual Directors should carefully consider the possible consequences before entering into a counseling relationship with someone with whom they have a pre-existing relationship (i.e., employee, professional colleague, friend, or other pre-existing relationship). [See Section 7.2.2]
- 1.3 Pastoral Counselors and Spiritual Directors should not audiotape or videotape sessions.
- 1.4 Pastoral Counselors and Spiritual Directors must never engage in sexual intimacies with the persons they counsel. This includes consensual and nonconsensual contact, forced physical contact, and inappropriate sexual comments.
- 1.5 Pastoral Counselors and Spiritual Directors shall not engage in sexual intimacies with individuals who are close to the client—such as relatives or friends of the client—when there is a risk of exploitation or potential harm to the client. Pastoral Counselors and Spiritual Directors should presume that the potential for exploitation or harm exists in such intimate relationships.
- 1.6 Pastoral Counselors and Spiritual Directors assume the full burden of responsibility for establishing and maintaining clear, appropriate boundaries in all counseling and counseling-related relationships.

¹ Pastoral Counselors and Spiritual Directors: Clergy, staff, and volunteers who provide pastoral, spiritual, and/or therapeutic counseling services to individuals, families, or other groups.

Code of Pastoral Conduct

For Priests, Deacons, Pastoral Ministers, Administrators, Staff & Volunteers

- 1.7 Physical contact of any kind (i.e., touching, hugging, holding) between Pastoral Counselors or Spiritual Directors and the persons they counsel can be misconstrued and should be avoided.
- 1.8 Sessions should be conducted in appropriate settings at appropriate times.
 - 1.8.1 No sessions should be conducted in private living quarters.
 - 1.8.2 Sessions should not be held at places or times that would tend to cause confusion about the nature of the relationship for the person being counseled.
- 1.9 Pastoral Counselors and Spiritual Directors shall maintain a log of the times and places of sessions with each person being counseled.

2. Confidentiality

Information disclosed to a Pastoral Counselor or Spiritual Director during the course of counseling, advising, or spiritual direction shall be held in the strictest confidence possible.

- 2.1 Information obtained in the course of sessions shall be confidential, except for compelling professional reasons or as required by law.
 - 2.1.1 If there is clear and imminent danger to the client or to others, the Pastoral Counselor or Spiritual Director may disclose only the information necessary to protect the parties affected and to prevent harm.
 - 2.1.2 Before disclosure is made, if feasible, the Pastoral Counselor or Spiritual Director should inform the person being counseled about the disclosure and the potential consequences.
- 2.2 Pastoral Counselors and Spiritual Directors should discuss the nature of confidentiality and its limitations with each person in counseling.
- 2.3 Pastoral Counselors and Spiritual Directors should keep minimal records of the content of sessions.
- 2.4 Knowledge that arises from professional contact may be used in teaching, writing, homilies, or other public presentations only when effective measures are taken to absolutely safeguard both the individual's identity and the confidentiality of the disclosures.
- 2.5 While counseling a minor, if a Pastoral Counselor or Spiritual Director discovers that there is a serious threat to the welfare of the minor and that communication of confidential information to a parent or legal guardian is essential to the child's health and well-being, the Counselor or Spiritual Director should:
 - Attempt to secure written consent from the minor for the specific disclosure.
 - If consent is not given, disclose only the information necessary to protect the health and well-being of the minor.

Consultation with the appropriate Church supervisory personnel is required before disclosure.

These obligations are independent of the confidentiality of the confessional. Under no circumstances whatsoever can there be any disclosure—even indirect disclosure—of information received through the confessional.

Code of Pastoral Conduct

For Priests, Deacons, Pastoral Ministers, Administrators, Staff & Volunteers

3. Conduct With Youth

Clergy, staff, and volunteers working with youth shall maintain an open and trustworthy relationship between youth and adult supervisors.

- 3.1 Clergy, staff, and volunteers must be aware of their own and others' vulnerability when working alone with youth. Use a team approach to managing youth activities.
- 3.2 Physical contact with youth can be misconstrued and should occur (a) only when completely nonsexual and otherwise appropriate, and (b) never in private.
- 3.3 Clergy, staff, and volunteers should refrain from (a) the illegal possession and/or illegal use of drugs and/or alcohol at all times, and (b) the use of alcohol when working with youth.
- 3.4 Clergy should not allow individual young people to stay overnight in the cleric's private accommodations or residence.
- 3.5 Staff and volunteers should not provide shared, private, overnight accommodation for individual young people including, but not limited to, accommodations in any Church- owned facility, private residence, hotel room, or any other place where there is no other adult supervision present.
 - 3.5.1 In rare, emergency situations, when accommodation is necessary for the health and well-being of the youth, the clergy, staff, or volunteer should take extraordinary care to protect all parties from the appearance of impropriety and from all risk of harm.
 - 3.5.2 Use a team approach to managing emergency situations.

4. Sexual Conduct

Clergy, staff, and volunteers must not, for sexual gain or intimacy, exploit the trust placed in them by the faith community.

- 4.1 Clergy, religious, staff, and volunteers who are committed to a celibate lifestyle are called to be an example of celibate chastity in all relationships at all times.
- 4.2 Staff and volunteers who provide pastoral counseling or spiritual direction services must avoid developing inappropriately intimate relationships with minors, other staff, or parishioners. Staff and volunteers must behave in a professional manner at all times.
- 4.3 No clergy, staff, or volunteer may exploit another person for sexual purposes.
- 4.4 Allegations of sexual misconduct should be taken seriously and reported to the Diocesan Office for the Protection of Children and Young People (516-678-5800 Ext. 573) and to civil authorities if the situation involves a minor.

The Diocese of Rockville Centre procedures will be followed to protect the rights of all involved.
- 4.5 Clergy, staff, and volunteers should review and know the contents of the child abuse regulations and reporting requirements for the state of New York and should follow those mandates.

Code of Pastoral Conduct

For Priests, Deacons, Pastoral Ministers, Administrators, Staff & Volunteers

5. Harassment

Clergy, staff, and volunteers must not engage in physical, psychological, written, or verbal harassment of staff, volunteers, or parishioners and must not tolerate such harassment by other Church staff or volunteers.

- 5.1 Clergy, staff, and volunteers shall provide a professional work environment that is free from physical, psychological, written, or verbal intimidation or harassment.
- 5.2 Harassment encompasses a broad range of physical, written, or verbal behavior, including without limitation the following:
 - Physical or mental abuse.
 - Racial insults.
 - Derogatory ethnic slurs.
 - Unwelcome sexual advances or touching.
 - Sexual comments or sexual jokes.
 - Requests for sexual favors used as:
 - a condition of employment, or
 - to affect other personnel decisions, such as promotion or compensation.
 - Display of offensive materials.
- 5.3 Harassment can be a single severe incident or a persistent pattern of behavior where the purpose or the effect is to create a hostile, offensive, or intimidating work environment.
- 5.4 Allegations of harassment should be taken seriously and reported immediately to the *Diocesan Office for the Protection of Children and Young People*.
- 5.5 *The Diocese of Rockville Centre* procedures will be followed to protect the rights of all involved.

6. Parish, Religious Community/Institute, and Organizational Records and Information

Confidentiality will be maintained in creating, storing, accessing, transferring, and disposing of parish, religious community/institute, or organizational records.

- 6.1 Sacramental records shall be regarded as confidential. When compiling and publishing parish, religious community/institute, or organization statistical information from these records, great care must be taken to preserve the anonymity of individuals.
- 6.2 Most sacramental records older than 70 years are open to the public.
 - 6.2.1 Information regarding adoption and legitimacy remains confidential, regardless of age.
 - 6.2.2 Only staff members who are authorized to access the records and supervise their use shall handle requests for more recent records.
- 6.3 Parish, religious community/institute, or organization financial records are confidential unless review is required by *the diocese, a supervising institution or an appropriate government agency*. Contact the *financial oversight department of the diocese or supervising institution* upon receipt of any request for release of financial records.
- 6.4 Individual contribution records of the parish, religious community/institute, or organization shall be regarded as private and shall be maintained in strictest confidence.

Code of Pastoral Conduct

For Priests, Deacons, Pastoral Ministers, Administrators, Staff & Volunteers

7. Conflicts of Interest

Clergy, staff, and volunteers should avoid situations that might present a conflict of interest. Even the appearance of a conflict of interest can call integrity and professional conduct into question.

- 7.1 Clergy, staff, and volunteers should disclose all relevant factors that potentially could create a conflict of interest.
- 7.2 Clergy, staff, and volunteers should inform all parties when a real or potential conflict of interest arises. Resolution of the issues must protect the person receiving ministry services.
- 7.2.1 No clergy, staff, or volunteer should take advantage of anyone to whom they are providing services in order to further their personal, religious, political, or business interests.
- 7.2.2 Pastoral counselors should not provide counseling services to anyone with whom they have a business, professional, or social relationship. When this is unavoidable, the client must be protected. The counselor must establish and maintain clear, appropriate boundaries.
- 7.2.3 When pastoral counseling or spiritual direction services are provided to two or more people who have a relationship with each other, the Pastoral Counselor or Spiritual Director must:
- Clarify with all parties the nature of each relationship,
 - Anticipate any conflict of interest,
 - Take appropriate actions to eliminate the conflict, and
 - Obtain from all parties written consent to continue services.
- 7.3 Conflicts of interest may also arise when a Pastoral Counselor's or Spiritual Director's independent judgment is impaired by:
- Prior dealings,
 - Becoming personally involved, or
 - Becoming an advocate for one (person) against another.

In these circumstances, the Pastoral Counselor or Spiritual Director shall advise the parties that he or she can no longer provide services and refer them to another Pastoral Counselor or Spiritual Director.

8. Reporting Ethical or Professional Misconduct

Clergy, staff, and volunteers have a duty to report their own ethical or professional misconduct and the misconduct of others.

- 8.1 Clergy, staff, and volunteers must hold each other accountable for maintaining the highest ethical and professional standards. When there is an indication of illegal actions by clergy, staff, or volunteers, you should notify the proper civil authorities immediately, your supervisor, and the Diocesan Office for the Protection of Children and Young People.

Code of Pastoral Conduct

For Priests, Deacons, Pastoral Ministers, Administrators, Staff & Volunteers

8.2 When an uncertainty exists about whether a situation or course of conduct violates this *Code of Pastoral Conduct* or other religious, moral, or ethical principles, consult with:

- Peers,
- Others knowledgeable about ethical issues, or
- The Chancery office of the Diocese of Rockville Centre.

8.3 When it appears that a member of clergy, a staff member, or a volunteer has violated this *Code of Pastoral Conduct* or other religious, moral, or ethical principles:

- Report the issue to a supervisor or next higher authority, or
- Refer the matter directly to the Diocesan Office for the Protection of Children and Young People (516-678-5800 Ext. 573).

8.4 The obligation of Pastoral Counselors and Spiritual Directors to report client misconduct is subject to the duty of confidentiality. However, any agreement or duty to maintain confidentiality must yield to the need to report misconduct that threatens the safety, health, or well-being of any of the persons involved except as provided for in Section 2.6

9. Administration

Employers and supervisors shall treat clergy, staff, and volunteers justly in the day-to-day administrative operations of their ministries.

9.1 Personnel and other administrative decisions made by clergy, staff, and volunteers shall meet civil and canon law obligations and also reflect Catholic social teachings and this *Code of Pastoral Conduct*.

9.2 No clergy, staff, or volunteer shall use his or her position to exercise unreasonable or inappropriate power and authority.

9.3 Each volunteer providing service to children and youth must read and sign the Volunteer Code of Conduct before providing services.

10. Staff or Volunteer Well-being

Clergy, staff, and volunteers have the duty to be responsible for their own spiritual, physical, mental, and emotional health.

10.1 Clergy, staff, and volunteers should be aware of warning signs that indicate potential problems with their own spiritual, physical, mental, and/or emotional health.

10.2 Clergy, staff, and volunteers should seek help immediately whenever they notice behavioral or emotional warning signs in their own professional and/or personal lives.

10.3 Clergy, staff, and volunteers must address their own spiritual needs. Support from a Spiritual Director is highly recommended.

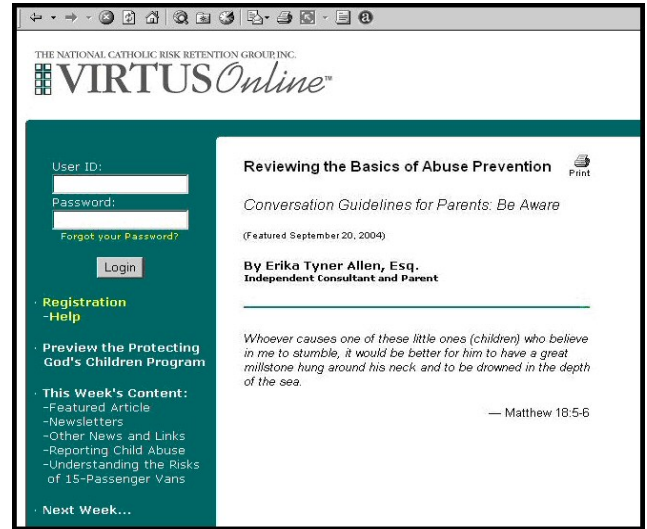
10.4 Inappropriate or illegal use of alcohol and drugs is prohibited.

Registration Instructions

Before or after your first Protecting God's Children session (*but not both*), you will need to register with the VIRTUS Program. This is required of all participants. If you do not have Internet access, and cannot temporarily gain Internet access via school, university, library, work, home or other means, please register with your Facilitator or your VIRTUS Coordinator.

Go to <http://www.virtusonline.org>

On the left-hand side of the page, click the yellow link labeled "Registration."



Choose the name of your organization from the pull-down menu by clicking the downward arrow and highlighting your organization. Once your organization is selected, click "Select."

Please select your Archdiocese/Diocese/Religious Organization from the list below:

- Select your organization ----->

Create a user ID and a password you can easily remember. This is necessary for all participants. This establishes your account within your Diocese and the VIRTUS program. If your preferred user ID is already taken, please choose another ID. We recommend the use of email addresses as user names. Click Continue to proceed.

Please create a user id and password that you will use to access your account

Create a User ID:

Create a Password:

Provide the information requested on the following page. Several fields are required, such as name, address, phone number and e-mail address. Click Continue to proceed.

- **If you do not have an email address, consider obtaining a free email account at mail.yahoo.com, or any other free service. This is necessary for your VIRTUS Coordinator to communicate with you. If you cannot obtain an email address, enter: noaddress@virtus.org. This will notify your VIRTUS Coordinator that you do not have an email address.**
- **If you do not have personal Internet access, and you are not able to obtain temporary Internet access for one hour per month, complete the registration process and your VIRTUS Programs Coordinator will contact you. Other options are available for your continued training.**

Please provide the information requested below

Salutation:

First Name: *

Middle Name:

Last Name: *

Email: *

Home Address: *

Home Address Cont'd:

City: *

State:

ZIP: *

Work Phone:

Home Phone:

* Required field

Select the PRIMARY location where you work, volunteer or worship. You will be able to select additional locations later if you serve at multiple locations within your organization. Click Continue to proceed.

Please select the primary location where you work, volunteer or worship

Location:

If you are associated with multiple locations, please choose the primary (work) location first. Then click the continue button to select additional locations such as those where you volunteer or worship.

Registration Instructions

Your current list of locations is displayed. If you need to add an additional location, choose YES. Otherwise, choose NO.

This is the list of locations with which you are associated:

St. Josephs Parish (Tulsa)

Do you need to add another location?

Select the role(s) that you serve within your organization. Please check all roles that apply. Additionally, if you have a title within your diocese, enter it in the box. I.e. Teacher, DRE, Catechist, etc. Click Continue to proceed.

Please select the roles that you play within your diocese

Please check all that apply.

Candidate for ordination Parent
 Deacon Priest
 Educator Volunteer
 Employee

If you have a title within your diocese, please enter it here:

Answer three YES/NO questions and then click Continue.

Are you a parent or guardian of a child under 18?

Yes
 No
 I choose not to answer this question

If you have already attended a Protecting God's Children Session, click YES, otherwise click NO.

Have you already attended a Protecting God's Children Session?

If you chose **NO** during the previous step, you will be presented with a list of all upcoming sessions within your organization. When you find the session you would like to attend, click the circle next to the title.

If you chose YES during the previous step, skip this step.

Please select the session you wish to attend

Unless otherwise noted all sessions are conducted in English.

Protecting God's Children for Adults

Where: Test Site (Tulsa)
When: Monday, October 25, 2004
6:00 PM
Estimated time: 3 hrs
Spaces remaining: 7 of 25

If you chose **YES**, you will be presented with a list of all sessions that have been held within your organization. Choose the session you attended by clicking the downward arrow and highlighting the session, and then click Complete Registration.

Please select the session you attended

-- Please select --

You will see a message on your screen confirming that you have completed the registration process. If you correctly entered your email address during the process, you will receive an email confirming your information. Additionally, your Virtus Coordinator may contact you via e-mail with information regarding your continuing training status.

If you have additional questions about the registration process, please contact your session's facilitator, your Virtus Coordinator, or the VIRTUS Help Desk at 1-888-847-8870.

Thank you for completing the registration process.

Thank you for registering for a Protecting God's Children session and with VIRTUS Online. You will receive an email confirming your registration for the session you selected.

After you attend your session, your account request will be reviewed by your Coordinator.

You will be notified via email when your VIRTUS Online account is activated.