

# The Diocese of Bridgeport Safe Environment Handbook

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## Executive Summary for Clergy & Men in Formation

As a **Cleric** or **Man in Formation**, I promise to strictly follow the rules and guidelines in this Code of Conduct. Clerics and Men in Formation who are committed to a celibate lifestyle are called to be an example of celibate chastity in all relationships at all times. I promise to conduct myself transparently and professionally both in person and while using any form of technology.

### As a Cleric or Man in Formation, I will:

- At all times avoid even the appearance of impropriety in person and while using technology
- Avoid situations where I am alone with a child or youth at Church activities.
- Be transparent and avoid the appearance of impropriety when giving and receiving gifts.
- Report any suspected abuse or risk of harm involving a minor, including child pornography, to the Pastor, Administrator, or appropriate supervisor and to the DCF Care-line **and** to the Victim Assistance Coordinator of the Diocese of Bridgeport within **(12)** hours of becoming aware of the information (outside of confession) whether the abuse is alleged to have occurred recently or in the past.
- Cooperate fully in any investigation involving abuse of children, youth or in any investigation of adult to adult misconduct.
- Uphold the standards of the USCCB Charter and the Safe Environment Policies of the Diocese of Bridgeport.

### As a Clergy member or Man in Formation, I will not:

- Be under the influence of alcohol at any time while ministering to minors.
- Use, possess, or be under the influence of illegal drugs at any time
- Strike, spank, shove, shake, push, or slap others .
- Humiliate, ridicule, threaten, or degrade others.
- Touch a minor and/or youth in a sexual or other inappropriate manner.
- Use any discipline that frightens or humiliates minors.
- Use profanity in the presence of minors.
- Visit pornographic websites or participate in interactive websites for the purpose of initiating sexual contacts, live or virtual.

I have read the Safe Environment Handbook and I am aware of the sections of that handbook which apply to my specific ministry, including but not limited to, The Code of Conduct for Clergy & Men in Formation; Guidelines for Trips, Events and Electronic Communication involving Minors and the sections on Mandatory Reporting. I agree to conduct myself accordingly.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Signature/Date: \_\_\_\_\_

**This page must be returned to: The Office of Clergy and Religious Personnel**