

Safe Parish Community Pledge

I, _____ (Please print) wish to serve at _____. I understand the importance of my role in ensuring a safe environment for all to whom I minister. I have read and understood all of the directives below. I pledge my support to observe these directives and to do all that I can to encourage others to do the same. If I become aware that any of these directives are being violated, I will notify my pastor or the Diocese of Prince George.

- All religious instruction of children and youth is to be done in a public, group format with at least two adults present at all times. One-on-one instruction in a private place as well as in-home religious instruction is to be avoided.
- One-on-one counselling, interviews, and discussions are to be conducted in a space that is visible to others. All rooms used for these purposes should have clear glass windows or doors or the door should be left open when the room is in use.
- The celebration of Reconciliation with children is to be done in a space that is visible to others (clear glass windows and doors or open doors) or in a traditional confessional.
- Overnight trips, camps, parish picnics and socials, are to be carefully planned so as to ensure privacy, modesty, and safety. Ministers and volunteers are never to be alone with children and adolescents during an overnight trip but are always to work as teams of at least two. Parents are to be closely involved with the preparations, planning and execution of all overnight trips and camps. A sufficient quorum of employees, volunteers and/or parents should be present to ensure child safety.
- Segregated change areas are to be provided for males and females.
- Ministers and volunteers
 - Should not be alone with a child, adolescent, or vulnerable adult in a rectory, automobile, or in private living quarters.
 - Should not seek out opportunities to spend off-site time with children to whom they minister.
 - Will set and keep appropriate boundaries with those to whom they minister. Hugs and kisses for younger children and physical “rough-housing” with older children should be appropriate and should occur in public. The adult party should exercise due discretion.
 - Should not routinely help children with toileting without explicit permission from parents/guardians. Toileting assistance for children should normally be undertaken by two adults.
 - Should not take any money or property in return for their ministry apart from contractual salaries or approved stipends.
 - Shall use appropriate language and show no bias based on gender, ethnic background, skin color, intelligence, age, religion, sexual orientation or social-economic status.
 - Shall respect others

Date: _____ Signature _____