

14 Sex Offenders and Church Property and Events

14.1 Definitions

"Sex offender" shall mean any person who has committed an act of sexual misconduct, regardless of whether they have been convicted of such an offense in a civil court, or whether they are a registered sex offender with any law enforcement agency.

"Sexual misconduct" is defined in the Archdiocesan Policy on Sexual Misconduct as "any actions or words of a sexual nature which are contrary to the moral doctrine, teachings and Canon law of the Catholic Church and (a) are proscribed by Federal, State or local law; or (b) cause harm to another."

"Church property" shall include all real property owned, controlled or leased by a parish or school, including but not limited to buildings, parking lots, playgrounds, and sports fields.

14.2 Policies

- a. Sex offenders shall be permanently excluded from any contact with minors in any parish or school program.
- b. A sex offender may not participate in any official parish or school activities, and may not be an active member of any parish or school organizations.
- c. A sex offender may only be present on Church property:
 1. For Mass, Confession or another public liturgy.
 2. For a private meeting with clergy (e.g., for Confession or counseling), but only by appointment and when there are no minors present on the Church property.
- d. A parent or guardian of a minor in parish or school program who is a sex offender:
 1. May be present on Church property to meet with a person who is working with their child (e.g., a teacher), but only by appointment and when there are no other minors present on the Church property.
 2. May be present on Church property to transport their child to and from the parish or school, provided that they:
 - i. Give prior notice to the responsible administrator and receive written permission to enter onto Church property,
 - ii. Comply with all terms and conditions established by the responsible administrator of the parish or school (e.g., requiring that the sex offender be escorted by another adult while they are on Church property or that they remain in a designated area),
 - iii. Remain only in public areas where other adults are present,
 - iv. Remain only as long as necessary to pick up or drop off their child,
 - v. Have no contact or communication with any other minors, and
 - vi. Transport no minor other than their own child.
 3. May attend official parish or school events at which minors are present (e.g., graduation ceremonies, school plays, field trips or sports team "away" games), provided that they:

- i. Give prior notice to the responsible administrator and receive written permission to enter onto Church property,
 - ii. Comply with all terms and conditions established by the responsible administrator of the parish or school (e.g., requiring that the sex offender be accompanied by another adult while they are on Church property),
 - iii. Remain only in public areas where other adults are present, and
 - iv. Have no contact or communication any minor other than their own child.
- e. If a volunteer or employee who works with minors in a parish or school program has a sex offender living in their household, they:
 1. Must notify the responsible administrator of their parish or school.
 2. May not, under any circumstances, bring any materials or other information to their household regarding the minors with whom they work.
 3. May not permit any contact of any kind between the sex offender and any minor with whom they work.