**Volunteer Code of Conduct**

In keeping with our primary value that every human life has dignity, Catholic Charities of Southern Minnesota has developed this Volunteer Code of Conduct to guide our interactions with everyone we serve, with special emphasis on the children and vulnerable adults we serve.

As a volunteer, I promise to strictly follow the rules and guidelines in the Volunteer Code of Conduct as a condition of my providing services through Catholic Charities of Southern Minnesota.

I will:
- Respect the privacy of all persons served and hold in confidence all information obtained in the course of volunteering and after my volunteer service has ended.
- Not discriminate against or refuse to serve anyone on the basis of race, color, creed, age, gender, sexual orientation, religion, disability or nationality.
- Avoid situations where I am alone with children/youth.
- Use positive reinforcement rather than criticism, competition, or comparison when working with children/youth and/or vulnerable adults.
- Not use my volunteer role or relationships to further my own interests.
- Not perform duties outside my approved volunteer role.
- Report any suspected abuse of the individuals I serve to my local County Child Protection Services (**see list on back) for children or for vulnerable adult abuse call the Minnesota Adult Abuse Reporting Center at 844-880-1574. 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/youth and/or vulnerable adults.
- Not strike, spank, shake, or slap children/youth and/or vulnerable adults.
- Not humiliate, ridicule, threaten, or degrade children/youth and/or vulnerable adults.
- Not touch a children/youth and/or vulnerable adults in a sexual or other inappropriate manner.
- Not use any discipline that frightens or humiliates children/youth and/or vulnerable adults.
- Not use profanity in the presence of children/youth and/or vulnerable adults.
- Refrain from smoking or using tobacco products while volunteering.
- Not possess or be under the influence of alcohol or illegal drugs while volunteering.
- Refrain from volunteering while ill.
- Acknowledge any conflict of interest with Catholic Charities when being placed as a volunteer by the agency.
- Respect the rights of all individuals, treating them with fairness, courtesy, respect, and good faith.
- Not give or accept gifts from individuals I serve.
- Not enter into any contracts on behalf of the Catholic Charities or undertake projects or activities not authorized.

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

Volunteer Printed Name  Volunteer Signature  Date
Minnesota’s County Child Protection Agencies

To report concerns about child abuse, neglect, or sexual abuse during business hours, contact the county where the child resides. If the child is in immediate risk of harm, please contact your local law enforcement agency or dial 911.

- Blue Earth County Human Services (507) 304-4444
- Brown County Human Services (507) 359-6500
- Cottonwood County Family Center (507) 831-1891
- Dodge County Human Services (507) 431-5725
- Faribault County Human Services (507) 526-2302
- Fillmore County Social Services (507) 765-2175
- Freeborn County Human Services (507) 377-5400
- Goodhue County Human Services (651) 385-3232
- Houston County Human Services (507) 725-5811
- Jackson County Human Services (507) 847-4000
- LeSueur County Human Services (507) 357-8288
- Martin County Human Services (507) 238-4757
- Mower County Human Services (507) 437-9700
- Murray County Human Services (888)964-8407
- Nicollet County Human Services (507) 934-8559
- Nobles County Family Services (507) 295-5213
- Olmsted Community Services (507) 328-6400
- Pipestone County Family Services (888) 964-8407
- Rice County Social Services (507) 332-6115
- Rock County Family Services (507) 283-5070
- Steele County Human Services (507) 431-5725
- Wabasha County Social Services (651) 565-3351
- Waseca County Human Services (507) 835-0560
- Watonwan County Human Services (507) 375-3294
- Winona County Community Services (507) 457-6500