



THE CATHOLIC UNIVERSITY OF AMERICA

Standards of Conduct for Interacting with Minors

The following standards of conduct are applicable to all University staff, faculty and students who interact with Minors on campus, or pursuant to any University-related activity involving Minors regardless of location:

- *DO remove Minors from potentially dangerous situations and, in the event of an emergency, immediately contact the Department of Public Safety at tel. (202) 319-5111.*
- *DO become familiar with and strictly adhere to the University's [Sexual Offenses Policy](#), particularly with respect to mandatory reporting of child abuse.*
- *DO be aware of the impact of your words and language on Minors.*
- *DO NOT engage in any sexual activity, make sexual comments, tell sexual jokes, or share sexually explicit material with Minors.*
- *DO NOT engage or allow Minors to engage you in romantic or sexual conversations.*
- *DO NOT be alone with any Minor unless it is unavoidable or necessary. If one-on-one interaction is required, meet in open, well illuminated spaces or rooms.*
- *DO NOT shower, bathe, or undress with or in the presence of Minors.*
- *DO NOT meet with Minors outside of established Camp activities or invite Minors to your home. Any exceptions require authorization by the Program Director and written authorization by each Minor's parent or guardian.*
- *DO NOT tell Minors "this is just between the two of us" or use similar language that encourages the Minor to keep secrets from their parents or guardians.*
- *DO NOT engage or communicate with Minors through e-mail, text messages, or any form of social media unless there is a programmatic purpose and the content of the communication is consistent with the mission of the Program and the University.*
- *DO NOT possess any sexually explicit materials in print or any electronic format around Minors. Such materials are inappropriate under any circumstances at the University, and particularly so with respect to minors.*
- *DO NOT photograph or video Minors absent express, written consent from a parent or guardian. If permission to photograph or video a Minor has been obtained, the photograph or video should be for Program purposes only and should be consistent with the guidelines set forth in this policy.*

- *DO NOT touch Minors in a manner that a reasonable person could interpret as inappropriate. DO NOT wrestle, tickle, hug or engage in horseplay with Minors. Touching should only be in the open and in response to the Minor's needs or for a clear programmatic or health related need (i.e., treatment of an injury or demonstration of an athletic-related stance or technique in a public setting). Any resistance from the Minor should be respected.*
- *DO NOT participate in a sleepover with Minors under the auspices of the program or activity, unless written authorization is obtained from each Minor's parent or guardian and only if two or more Authorized Adults are present and remain in each other's presence at all times.*
- *DO NOT engage in any abusive conduct of any kind toward, or in the presence of, a Minor, including but not limited to verbal abuse, striking, hitting, punching, poking, spanking, or restraining. If restraint is necessary to protect a Minor or other Minors from harm, all incidents must be documented and disclosed to the Program Director and the Minor's parent/guardian.*
- *DO NOT use, possess or be under the influence of alcohol or illegal drugs while on duty or when responsible for a Minor's welfare.*
- *DO NOT accept or give gifts to Minors without the express permission of their parent or guardian.*
- *When transporting Minors in a Program, more than one adult from the Program must be present in the vehicle, except when multiple Minors will be in the vehicle at all times through the transportation. Avoid using personal vehicles if possible.*