

■ POLICY

□ GUIDELINE

MINORS

DRUG PREVENTION

For the purpose of this policy, “drugs” shall mean:

1. Any drug of abuse as defined in Ohio Revised Code §3719.011 (which includes any controlled substance, any harmful intoxicant and any dangerous drug as those terms are further defined in the Ohio Revised Code);
2. All alcoholic beverages;
3. All tobacco products;
4. Any prescription or patent drug, except those for which permission to use in program has been granted;
5. Anabolic steroids;
6. Cocaine, crack cocaine, LSD, hashish, opiates, narcotic drugs and marijuana;
7. Any substance that is a “look-alike” to any of the above, or is a counterfeit controlled substance as defined in Ohio Revised Code §2925.01(O).

(See policy 5141.0 regarding prescribed medication)

The term “drug paraphernalia” shall have the meaning set forth in Ohio Revised Code §2925.14(A).

Parishes are encouraged to develop a drug prevention program in programs that should:

- a. Emphasize the prevention of drug use;
- b. Provide for a comprehensive, age-appropriate, developmentally-based alcohol and other drugs education and prevention program;
- c. Include a clear statement that disciplinary sanctions as determined by the parish, will be imposed on program participants who violate the program standards of conduct and a description of those standards;
- d. Provide information about alcohol and other drug counseling and rehabilitation programs available to youth and their parent(s) and or guardian(s).

The use, possession, concealment, manufacture, administering, dispensing or distribution of any drug or drug paraphernalia, or committing any “drug abuse offense” as defined in Ohio Code §2925.01, or appearance while under the influence of any drug, on parish premises, in vehicles used to transport to a religious education event, or at any religious education sponsored event is prohibited.

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(cont'd)

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Anyone who is committing any act prohibited by this policy shall be brought to the attention of the pastor or the pastor's designated representative.

The pastor or representative shall place the safety of the child or youth as a priority in each situation. The pastor or representative shall notify the child or youth's parent(s) or guardian(s) within 24 hours of the incident.

The parish's faith formation program should address prevention, intervention and treatment. Each parish should develop local policies regarding the consequences of the use, concealment, or distribution of any drug or drug related paraphernalia. These policies shall include the consequences for first time and repeat offenders. The first time offender is required to meet with his/her parent(s) or guardian(s) and parish officials.

Any reference to an Ohio Revised Code section in this policy shall also refer to any subsequent Ohio statute of like tenor and effect.

**Office of Religious Education and Catechesis
Catholic Diocese of Columbus**

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