

■ POLICY

□ GUIDELINE

MINORS AND ADULTS

PREGNANCY

In consideration for the sacredness of life and Christ’s example of compassion and forgiveness, no Catholic parish shall suspend or expel a participant from a faith formation program on the grounds of pregnancy.

Any determination as to health matters concerning the restrictions on, or continuing participation in, parish sponsored activities by a pregnant person shall be made by that person’s doctor. Written notice of the doctor’s determination shall be provided to the pastor or his representative.

The religious instruction given in the parish’s faith formation program should make clear that any act involving procreation is the exclusive right of those who are married. If, in the case of a person who is unmarried, those involved in faith formation have an attitude of compassion rather than approval, and if the parish program offers appropriate religious instruction, there is every reasonable hope that the attitude of the participants will, likewise, be a rational and Christian one.

At this time in their lives, those involved in a pregnancy need Christian acceptance, compassion and counsel. It is the Christian community’s responsibility to give support and aid to those involved. Counseling for the expectant parents and parents of expectant parents is strongly recommended.

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

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