

CATHOLIC MUTUAL GROUP

FIELD TRIP RISK MANAGEMENT INFORMATION

OVERVIEW

The purpose of the enclosed information is to provide sample forms and procedures to minimize the exposures created by participation in field trips. In addition to completion of the enclosed forms, all participating adults should be screened and complete all safe environment requirements.

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Remember that these forms are only samples or drafts that can be adapted for use in your particular Arch/Diocese. Review by legal counsel is recommended to ensure that wording is appropriate and valid in your jurisdiction.

Thank you for your interest and concern regarding these important issues. If you have any questions or need additional information, please feel free to call the Risk Management Department at (800) 228-6108.

FIELD TRIP

STATEMENT OF POLICY

The (Arch)Diocese of _____ and/or _____ Parish/School recognizes the importance and value of trips for educational field study and approves of these visits to places of cultural or educational significance to further enrich the lessons of the classroom. This policy permits principals and/or assistants/vice principals to approve of field trips during normal school hours on a single school day. However, if out-of-state field trips, or any field trips to foreign countries are planned, these must have the ultimate approval of the (Arch)Diocese and/or school board. The following regulations should be taken into consideration when any field trips are being planned. They are as follows:

1. Adequate supervision by qualified adults, including one or more employees of the (Arch)Diocese and/or school.
2. Waivers by all adults and all parents/guardians of students taking any field trip of all claims against the (Arch)Diocese and/or the school for injury, accident, illness or death occurring during, or by reason of the field trip.
3. Proper insurance for students, personnel, and equipment. Any children and chaperons registering for a field trip should be able to show evidence of medical/health insurance for any accidents/bodily injury sustained on a field trip. If necessary, group accident insurance can be tailored and written on an event-specific basis. Please consult your Member Services Representative at Catholic Mutual Group if you have any questions. In addition, anyone bringing special equipment or gear from home for the benefit of the field trip should be advised that they are responsible for providing insurance in the event of damage, theft or other unforeseen circumstances.
4. If a fee is charged for the field trip, a contingency should be made for any student member who cannot afford the trip. Ideally, a student(s) should not be excluded because of lack of funds.
5. Inclusion of a proper first aid kit and fire extinguisher.
6. Permission in a written form from each student's parent or legal guardian to provide medical treatment if necessary.

Finally, to ensure the desired outcome of such field trips, teachers should prepare the students for the place that is to be visited and the things that are to be seen. Additionally, an advance visit should be made to the site of the field trip by the teacher so that any and all unforeseen circumstances, situations, and/or events could be properly planned for; so that any difficulties would be minimized.

FIELD TRIP

ADULT LIABILITY WAIVER

Each adult participant, including group leaders and chaperons, must sign this form.

RELEASE OF LIABILITY

I, _____, agree on behalf of myself, my heirs, assigns,
Full Name
executors, and personal representatives, to hold harmless and defend
_____, _____, its officers,
Parish Diocese
directors, agents, employees, or representatives associated with the field trip
from any and all liability claims, loss or damage arising from or in connection
with my participation in the field trip.

Signature Date

Print name

FIELD TRIP

MEDICAL INFORMATION AND PARENTAL/GUARDIAN CONSENT FORM/LIABILITY WAIVER

Participant's name: _____

Date of birth: _____ Sex: _____

Parent/Guardian's name: _____

Home address: _____

Home phone: _____ Business phone: _____

I, _____ grant permission for my child, _____

Parent or guardian's name Child's name

to participate in this parish/school event that requires transportation to a location away from the parish/school site. This activity will take place under the guidance and direction of parish/school employees and/or volunteers from _____.

Name of

parish/school

A brief description of the activity follows:

Type of event: _____

Date of event: _____

Destination of event: _____

Individual in charge: _____

Estimated time of departure and return: _____

Mode of transportation to and from event: _____

As parent and/or legal guardian, I remain legally responsible for any personal actions taken by the above named minor ("participant").

I agree on behalf of myself, my child named herein, or our heirs, successors, and assigns, to hold harmless and defend _____, its

Name of Parish

officers, directors, employees and agents, and the Diocese of _____, its employees and agents, chaperons, or representatives associated with the event, from any claim arising from or in connection with my child attending the event or in connection with any illness or injury (including death) or cost of medical treatment in connection therewith, and I agree to compensate the parish/school, its officers, directors and agents, and the Diocese of _____, its employees and agents and chaperons, or representative associated with the event for reasonable attorney's fees and expenses which may incur in any action brought against them as a result of such injury or damage, unless such claim arises from the negligence of the parish/school or the Arch/Diocese of _____.

Signature: _____ Date: _____

MEDICAL MATTERS: I hereby warrant that to the best of my knowledge, my child is in good health and I assume all responsibility for the health of my child. (Of the following statements pertaining to medical matters, sign only those that are applicable.)

Emergency Medical Treatment: In the event of an emergency, I hereby give permission to transport my child to a hospital for emergency medical or surgical treatment. I wish to be advised prior to any further treatment by the hospital or doctor. In the event of an emergency, if you are unable to reach me at the above numbers, contact:

Name & relationship:

Phone: _____ Family doctor: _____ Phone: _____

Family Health Plan Carrier: _____ Policy #: _____

Signature: _____ Date: _____

Other Medical Treatment: In the event it comes to the attention of the parish/school, its officers, directors and agents, and the Arch/Diocese of _____, chaperons, or representatives associated with the activity, that my child becomes ill with symptoms such as headache, vomiting, sore throat, fever, diarrhea, I want to be called collect (with phone charges reversed to myself).

Signature: _____ Date: _____

Medications: My child is taking medication at present. My child will bring all such medications necessary and such medications will be well-labeled. Names of medications and concise directions for seeing that the child takes such medications, including dosage and frequency of dosage, are as follows:

Signature: _____ Date: _____

No medication of any type, whether prescription or non-prescription, may be administered to my child unless the situation is life-threatening and emergency treatment is required.

Signature: _____ Date: _____

I hereby grant permission for non-prescription medication (i.e. non-aspirin products such as acetaminophen or ibuprofen, throat lozenges, cough syrup) to be given to my child, if deemed appropriate.

Signature: _____ Date: _____

Specific Medical Information: The parish/school will take reasonable care to see that the following information will be held in confidence.

Allergic reactions (medications, foods, plants, insects, etc.):

Immunizations: Date of last tetanus/diphtheria immunization:

Does child have a medically prescribed diet?

Does child have any physical limitations?

Is child subject to chronic homesickness, emotional reactions to new situations, sleepwalking, bedwetting, fainting?

Has child recently been exposed to contagious disease or conditions, such as mumps, measles, chicken pox, etc.? If so, list date and disease or condition:

You should be aware of these special medical conditions of my child:

FIELD TRIP TRANSPORTATION POLICY

Commercial carrier or contracted transportation is the most desirable method to be used for field trips and, whenever possible, this mode of transportation should be provided. The use of private passenger vehicles is discouraged and should be avoided if at all possible. If commercial carriers are used (i.e. commercial airlines, trains, or buses), no further information is required. However, if transportation is contracted, signed contracts should be executed with an appropriate hold harmless agreement protecting the parish/school and the (Arch)Diocese. Also, contracted carriers should provide proof of insurance with minimum limits of liability of \$2,000,000 CSL (Combined Single Limit).

Leased Vehicles

If a vehicle is leased, rented, or borrowed to transport participants to and from the event, appropriate insurance should be obtained. Coverage can be purchased through the rental company or your local agent. If auto coverage is provided through Catholic Mutual, contact should be made with your Member Services Representative.

COVERAGE CANNOT BE AUTOMATICALLY ASSUMED FOR LEASED, RENTED, OR BORROWED VEHICLES.

Private Passenger Vehicles

If a private passenger vehicle must be used, then the following information must be supplied and this information must be certified by the driver in question.

1. The driver must be 21 years of age or older.

2. The driver must have a valid, non-probationary driver's license and no physical disability that could in any way impair his/her ability to drive the vehicle safely.

3. The vehicle must have a valid and current registration and valid and current license plates.

4. The vehicle must be insured for the following minimum limits: \$100,000 per person/\$300,000 per occurrence.

A signed **Driver Information Sheet** for each driver must be obtained prior to the field trip.

Each driver and/or chaperon should be given a copy of the approved itinerary including the route to be followed and a summary of his/her responsibilities.

Distance Limitations (For non-contracted transportation)

1. Daily maximum miles driven should not exceed 500 miles per vehicle.
2. Maximum number of consecutive miles driven should not exceed 250 miles per driver without at least a 30 minute break.

DRIVER INFORMATION SHEET

Driver

Name _____ Date of Birth _____
Address _____ Home Phone _____
_____ Cell Phone _____
Driver's License # _____ Date of Expiration _____

Vehicle That Will Be Used

Name of Owner _____ Model of Vehicle _____
Address of Owner _____ Make of Vehicle _____
_____ Year of Vehicle _____
License Plate # _____ Date of Expiration _____

If more than one vehicle is to be used, the aforementioned information must be provided for each vehicle.

Insurance Information

Insurance Company _____ Liability Limits of Policy* _____

(*Please note: The minimal, acceptable liability limit for privately-owned vehicles is \$100,000/\$300,000)

In order to provide for the safety of our students or other members of the parish/school and those we serve, we must ask each volunteer driver to answer the following questions:

TRUE FALSE

1. I have NOT had a conviction for an infraction involving drugs or alcohol (such as driving under the influence or driving while intoxicated) in the last three years. _____
2. I have NOT had two or more convictions for an infraction involving drugs or alcohol (such as driving under the influence or driving while intoxicated) in the last seven years. _____
3. I have had no more than three moving violations or accidents in the last three years. _____

Please be aware that as a volunteer driver, your insurance is primary.

Certification

I certify that the information given on this form is true and correct to the best of my knowledge. I understand driving for Church ministry is a profound responsibility and I will exercise extreme care and due diligence while driving. I understand that as a volunteer driver, I must be 21 years of age or older, possess a valid driver's license, have the proper and current license and vehicle registration, and have the required insurance coverage in effect on any vehicle used to transport students. I agree that I will refrain from using a cell phone or any other electronic device while operating my vehicle.

Signature _____

Date _____

YOUTH PROGRAMS/ FIELD TRIPS

Youth group activities can present a wide range of loss exposures. First, and foremost is the need to have pre-screened adult supervision for all youth group activities and outings. One-on-one contact with a youth and adult and with the youth themselves should be avoided. This is especially important in “at risk” situations (i.e. overnight field trips, non public areas, etc.).

Field trip permission and release forms and, if applicable, driver screening forms, should be utilized for all off-site functions. All volunteers and chaperone drivers must be at least 21 years of age. In some situations, it may be recommended *not* to have your church responsible for providing transportation to an off-site location. In these cases, it should be the parents’ responsibility for taking and picking up their child from the activity site/function.

Steps to Safe Youth Activities

Supervision

It is important that there is proper supervision of the young adults. Make sure that the ratio between staff and youth is adequate and that chaperones actually chaperone. Never leave a youth alone whether it is after an event or after the youth meeting. Make sure that all youths are picked up before chaperones or teachers leave the premises. Never place yourself in an indefensible position due to a lack of common sense. .

Communication

Make sure that parents are aware of the when, where and how of an activity through written communication. Listen to the concerns of parents. It is also wise to develop policies on how to respond in given situations.

Transportation

Whether the vehicle belongs to the parish, a volunteer, or is rented, make sure there is adequate insurance on the vehicle(s). Do not overload the vehicles. Make sure that there are enough seat belts for every passenger in the vehicle. Do not allow students to drive. All drivers must be 21 years of age or over to transport students to and from activities. Situations do arise where the availability of parish approved drivers for off site activities are inadequate. Often, the best, and only solution is to have parents/guardians responsible to take and pick up the youth member from the activity site.

Planning

Make sure that all events are planned in detail and that everyone knows their part in the event. Transportation requirements are a very important part of your planning.