

CRIMINAL BACKGROUND CHECKS – GUIDELINES FOR FINDINGS

The Office of Child and Youth Protection sends a copy of the criminal findings to the pastor, local Safe Environment Coordinator and school principal (as appropriate).

The Diocesan Code of Conduct states “A Church Person may not serve with minors, young adults 18-21, or legally vulnerable adults if he or she has:

- been convicted of any of the criminal felonies listed below, or
- received deferred adjudication for any of these criminal felonies, or
- a pending criminal charge for any felony offense until a determination of not guilty is made.

These felonies are:

- offenses against a person or family, including but not limited to: murder, assault, sexual assault, abandoning or endangering a child, bigamy or incest
- offenses against public order or indecency, including but not limited to, promoting prostitution, possessing or promoting child pornography
- violations within the last five years of any law intended to prevent the possession or distribution of a controlled substance in the Washington State Uniform Controlled Substances Act

See the Diocesan Disclosure Statement for an additional list of felony crimes against persons.

If the criminal finding is a misdemeanor (DUI, trespassing, fourth degree assault, littering, etc.), the pastor or principal is the sole decision-maker regarding whether or not this volunteer may work with children, youth or vulnerable adults

(Example: A finding of a DUI conviction would probably dictate that the volunteer never should drive on a field trip or ever drive for any reason on behalf of the parish and/or the school, but it may not prohibit the volunteer from serving as a catechist.)

Please call the Office of Child and Youth Protection at (509) 358-4283 or (509)358-7319 for further guidance on determining the level of participation by individuals with criminal background findings.

5.1.21