

■ POLICY

□ GUIDELINE

ACTIVITIES

ADULT CHAPERONES FOR ACTIVITIES WITH MINORS

Parishes must follow a strategy of “two-deep” ministry with minors, where at least two adults are present at all religious education activities and situations, wherever possible.

Where a one-to-one activity is required (e.g. counseling), such activities should take place in an open environment. Special attention should be given to provide a safe and confidential forum while following standards of prudence.

Adult chaperones for activities with minors must be at least 21 years of age.

For activities away from parish property, a ratio of one adult per ten minors must be followed. For overnight activities, a ratio of one adult per six minors must be followed. The ratio of male-to-female chaperones should closely parallel the ratio of male-to-female minors at an activity. This is particularly important for overnight activities.

For overnight activities where private rooms are used, an adult chaperone must never share a room with a minor except where a parent is serving as a chaperone and there are no other persons sharing the room.

No adult chaperone should ever enter the room of a minor unless it is absolutely necessary. If circumstances require it, the chaperone must be accompanied by another adult and the door must remain open the entire time the adults are present. Both adult chaperones should be of the same sex as the minor in the room. If this is not possible, one male and one female chaperone may be used.

A minor must never be invited or instructed to enter the room of an adult chaperone.

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

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