



200.42

□ POLICY

■ GUIDELINE

YOUTH PROTECTION

YOUTH BEHAVIOR AND CODE OF CONDUCT

Each youth ministry program should develop, publish, and update on a regular basis a code of conduct for participants. The code shall specify expectations for youth behavior. It should also indicate procedures, corrective measures, and penalties that the program may use for violations of these expectations. The code must safeguard the youth's right to due process.

Behavior is the manner in which one acts. Since the essence of Christian discipline is self discipline, youth must be free to choose one form of behavior over another. In choosing to behave or misbehave a youth takes upon him/herself the consequences of that chosen behavior.

1. In establishing a code of conduct the program shall:
 - a) ensure that the rules and consequences are understood by the youth
 - b) ensure that the punishments are pastorally constructive and relative to the misbehavior
 - c) encourage reconciliation with the offended party if applicable
2. Youth ministry team members shall uphold the code of conduct established for the program and follow the expectations, procedures, corrective measures and penalties regarding the program's rules.
3. Youth ministry team members shall be responsible for establishing an environment in which youth receive continuing instruction regarding acceptable behavior.
4. Since the Church supports the dignity of persons of all ages, corporal punishment in any form is never an acceptable form of punishment.
5. A person may use a physical response to "obtain possession of weapons or dangerous objects upon the person or within the control of the pupil, for the purpose of self-defense, or for the protection of persons or property." (Ohio Law 3319.41)

The code of conduct should be made available to youth participants, parent (s), or guardian (s) and the youth ministry team.