

REGISTERED SEX OFFENDERS
ATTENDANCE AT MASS AND PARISH ACTIVITIES IN THE
DIOCESE OF DAVENPORT

When a pastor or Parish Life Coordinator (“PLC”) becomes aware of someone who is a Registered Sex Offender who wishes to participate in Mass and other parish activities, there is a need to strike a balance between their desire to be reconciled to Christ within the Church community and the need to protect children and the parish community.

While a Catholic’s access to the sacraments must be respected, access to other events and activities may need to be restricted or even prohibited altogether as a precaution to protect children and the parish community.

The individual may be allowed to attend Mass and certain events or activities, but only if other adults are present. The individual must inform the pastor or PLC and provide his or her name, address, and phone number. If the individual is on probation, the probation officer should be contacted and the individual must authorize that any probation orders in effect are provided to the pastor or PLC. If the probation orders do not prohibit the offender from attending the Church, the offender is subject to the following conditions:

- The exclusion zones listed in Iowa Code Section 692A.113 apply to all individuals (see attached).
- The individual may not serve in any ministerial capacity, including but not limited to: usher, lector, communion distributor, choir member, member of church councils or committees, or volunteering at church functions or festivals.
- Written permission from the pastor or PLC is required before the individual may appear on parish grounds.
- The individual may not be employed by a parish or parish school.
- The individual may not appear on parish grounds unless accompanied by a same-sex chaperone (in case restroom is needed) who has been identified and cleared by criminal background check.
- The individual should attend Mass that has the fewest children present. The pastor or PLC should specify the time of the Mass.
- If at all possible, the individual is to be seated away from children.
- The individual may drive to church with her or her children as passengers, but no other children may be transported.
- The individual may be in the Church no more than 15 minutes prior to Mass and must depart within 15 minutes after Mass has concluded. Attendance at coffee and donuts events is not allowed.

- The individual may be allowed to attend certain events or activities but only if solely adults are present. The individual must inform the pastor or PLC if he or she would like to attend a particular event or activity, e.g., a men's prayer breakfast. The pastor or PLC has final say over which events or activities the individual may or may not attend.
- These restrictions also apply to any parish facilities that provide services to dependent adults or events where dependent adults participate in programming (persons eighteen years of age or older who cannot protect their own interests or perform or obtain services to meet essential needs as a result of physical or mental condition).
- The individual may not attend any parish events if they are held on school premises or child care premises, even if school activities are not involved.
- A violation will mean loss of privileges if an individual is unwilling to abide by these requirements.

These requirements do not envision every situation that might arise nor do they foresee particular circumstances that would call for a different pastoral approach. Any deviation from this policy must be discussed with the Victim Assistance Coordinator. The Diocese understands that these restrictions may seem severe. However, it is important that these measures are taken to protect all children, in accordance with the United States Bishops' *Charter for the Protection of Children and Young People* and the Diocese's policies.

A separate School Safety Plan has been promulgated by the schools and faith formation programs of the Diocese of Davenport with regard to parents of children in these programs who are Registered Sex Offenders. The School Safety Plan is as follows:

School Safety Plan
(School Name/ Faith Formation Program)

(Person's name) is the (relationship) of (child's name) who is currently enrolled in (School/FF Name) (Person's name) is currently on the Sex Offender Registry in the State of Iowa. This Safety Plan is designed to protect the children and family members of the (School Name) community as well as (Person's name) interests and those of (child's name).

1. (Person's name) shall not enter the (School Name) premises for reasons other than Parent-Teacher Conferences, Special Events, i.e., Christmas Programs, Athletic or Social Events in which (Child's Name) is a participant, or as otherwise directed by the Principal, faculty and/or staff.
2. When attending Special Events, (Person's Name) shall be accompanied by another family member or adult who is aware of his status on the Registry, at all times.
3. For other activities/clubs/organizations, such as Brownies, Boy Scouts, etc., (Person's Name) will drop (Child's Name) off and pick (Child's Name) up at the end of each session. Again, if there are any events associated with activities/clubs/organizations, (Person's Name) shall be accompanied by another family member or adult who is aware of his/her status on the Registry, at all times.
4. (Person's Name) will arrive shortly before and leave immediately after any Special Event, activities/clubs/organizational events.
5. (Person's Name) shall refrain from interacting with the other school children at (School/FF Name) at all times. At no time will he/she be in a position where he/she is alone with any child. (Person's Name) is limited to greeting others as appropriate but is restricted from carrying on any conversation with students of (School/FF Name).
6. (Person's Name) will not enter any room of (School/FF Name) unattended, where children are present.
7. (Person's Name) will not be allowed to volunteer for any activities that require him/her to be around, supervise or chaperone any students of (School/FF Name).
8. (Person's Name) shall continue to follow any and all other existing Code of Conduct Rules currently established by (School/FF Name).
9. While in the school for reasons other than Special Events or Activities, (Person's Name) is to be escorted by a staff member while moving throughout the school. For example, if (Person's Name) is entering the school for a Parent-Teacher Conference, he/she is to be accompanied to and from the classroom where the conference is occurring.

10. If there should ever be a circumstance under which this Safety Plan does not address but appears to need to be addressed, (Person's Name) will review the circumstance with the School Administration prior to taking any action.
11. (Person's Name) shall make himself/herself available to the Principal to discuss/review the terms and conditions of this School Safety Plan at any reasonable time.

This Safety Plan may be modified or otherwise altered at a later date at the direction of School Administration and upon the agreement of both parties. The parties shall continue to have open communication with the (School) staff on all related issues.

Willful violation of this Safety Plan may result in (School/FF Name) dismissing (Child's Name) as a student from school permanently.

Parent's Signature

Date

Principal's Signature

Date

Director of Faith Formation and Education Signature

Date

2/20/09

692A.113 Exclusion zones and prohibition of certain employment-related activities.

1. A sex offender who has been convicted of a sex offense against a minor or a person required to register as a sex offender in another jurisdiction for an offense involving a minor shall not do any of the following:

a. Be present upon the real property of a public or nonpublic elementary or secondary school without the written permission of the school administrator or school administrator's designee, unless enrolled as a student at the school.

b. Loiter within three hundred feet of the real property boundary of a public or nonpublic elementary or secondary school, unless enrolled as a student at the school.

c. Be present on or in any vehicle or other conveyance owned, leased, or contracted by a public or nonpublic elementary or secondary school without the written permission of the school administrator or school administrator's designee when the vehicle is in use to transport students to or from a school or school-related activities, unless enrolled as a student at the school or unless the vehicle is simultaneously made available to the public as a form of public transportation.

d. Be present upon the real property of a child care facility without the written permission of the child care facility administrator.

e. Loiter within three hundred feet of the real property boundary of a child care facility.

f. Be present upon the real property of a public library without the written permission of the library administrator.

g. Loiter within three hundred feet of the real property boundary of a public library.

h. Loiter on or within three hundred feet of the premises of any place intended primarily for the use of minors including but not limited to a playground available to the public, a children's play area available to the public, a recreational or sport-related activity area when in use by a minor, a swimming or wading pool available to the public when in use by a minor, or a beach available to the public when in use by a minor.

2. A sex offender who has been convicted of a sex offense against a minor:

a. Who resides in a dwelling located within three hundred feet of the real property boundary of public or nonpublic elementary or secondary school, child care facility, public library, or place intended primarily for the use of minors as specified in subsection 1, paragraph "h", shall not be in violation of subsection 1 for having an established residence within the exclusion zone.

b. Who is the parent or legal guardian of a minor shall not be in violation of subsection 1 solely during the period of time reasonably necessary to transport the offender's own minor child or ward to or from a place specified in subsection 1.

c. Who is legally entitled to vote shall not be in violation of subsection 1 solely for the period of time reasonably necessary to exercise the right to vote in a public election if the polling location of the offender is located in a place specified in subsection 1.

3. A sex offender who has been convicted of a sex offense against a minor shall not do any of the following:

a. Operate, manage, be employed by, or act as a contractor or volunteer at any municipal, county, or state fair or carnival when a minor is present on the premises.

b. Operate, manage, be employed by, or act as a contractor or volunteer on the premises of any children's arcade, an amusement center having coin or token operated devices for entertainment, or facilities providing programs or services intended primarily for minors, when a minor is present.

c. Operate, manage, be employed by, or act as a contractor or volunteer at a public or nonpublic elementary or secondary school, child care facility, or public library.

d. Operate, manage, be employed by, or act as a contractor or volunteer at any place intended primarily for use by minors including but not limited to a playground, a children's play area, recreational or sport-related activity area, a swimming or wading pool, or a beach.

2009 Acts, ch 119, §13; 2010 Acts, ch 1104, §10, 23; 2011 Acts, ch 34, §144

Referred to in §692A.107, 692A.109, 692A.111, 692A.121, 692A.129