



# RIGHTS AND RESPONSIBILITIES OF PARENTS AND GUARDIANS OF STUDENTS IN PARISH FAITH FORMATION PROGRAMS

## **POLICY**

This policy is to be provided to separated or divorced parents of all children enrolled in parish faith formation programs, and the legal guardians of the children if guardians have been appointed. For children not yet baptized as Catholic, both parents and/or legal guardians must provide written consent on the attached form.

## **NOTICE AND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF RIGHTS AND RESPONSIBILITIES OF DIVORCED/SEPARATED PARENTS OR LEGAL GUARDIANS WHEN ENROLLING A STUDENT**

**And**

## **CONSENT TO ENROLLMENT**

This notice applies for divorced/separated parents, or legal guardians of children whose parents are divorced/separated, when enrolling a student in a faith formation program at any of the parishes or schools of the Archdiocese of Miami.

It is the obligation and the right of the Catholic Church to provide for and support the faith formation of its baptized members. For children, this includes preparation for reception of the Sacraments, religious education classes, Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults adapted for children, youth ministry activities and Catholic elementary and secondary schools (“faith formation program”), in concert with the parent(s) or legal guardian having custody of the child and capacity to consent to participate on the child’s behalf.

In the case of a baptized Catholic child, either parent or a legal guardian may enroll their child as a faith formation student at a parish or religious education program of the Archdiocese of Miami (hereinafter referred to as “the Parish”).

In the case of a child who is not baptized as a Catholic, the person who enrolls the child as a faith formation student at the Parish must provide either (1) written consent of the other, non-enrolling parent or legal guardian on the attached form, or (2) appropriate legal documentation at the time of enrollment of his/her sole authority to enroll the child, such as a court order. Documentation of consent of all persons who have custody rights for the child is required for religious education classes, Rite of Christian Initiation adapted for children, sacramental preparation classes, Catholic school enrollment and youth ministry activities, **if the child is not baptized as a Catholic.**

Unless the Parish is provided with a court order to the contrary, the person who enrolls the child at the Parish will be deemed to be the primary contact person for all faith formation program related issues involving the student. However, either parent or a legal guardian may be entitled,



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upon reasonable request and consistent with any specific limitations in the court order, to have equal access to documents and other information concerning the child’s instruction.

In the case of conflicting instructions regarding the faith formation of a baptized Catholic, proper objections of a parent or legal guardian with rights for the child, or requests that the faith formation program is not clearly authorized to honor, the Parish may request both parents or guardian to seek appropriate court instructions for the Parish. The faith formation program will respect and comply with lawful court orders.

### **ACKNOWLEDGMENT AND CONSENT OF DIVORCED/SEPARATED PARENTS OR LEGAL GUARDIANS**

*(Only Required for Children Not Baptized as Catholic)*

We, \_\_\_\_\_ (Print Name(s) of *Parents or Legal Guardians*) hereby acknowledge that we have read and understand the foregoing Notice of Rights and Responsibilities of Divorced/Separated Parents and Legal Guardians when enrolling a child in a faith formation program. We consent to the enrollment of \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_ (Print Name of Student) in the Parish Faith Formation Program.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature Parent/Legal Guardian (*enrolling*)

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature Parent/Legal Guardian (*non-enrolling*)

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

*NOTE: Maintain the original in parish/school files; provide a copy of policy and form to the parents/guardians.*

Initial:      April, 2015  
Current:     April, 2015