



## **Diocese of Springfield in Illinois Safe Environment Guidelines**

**Topic:** Volunteers Ages 15-17  
**Effective:** 10/10/2006

### **Training**

Children ages 16-17 that volunteer in PSR, mentoring or other programs in the parish are not required to attend the Protecting God's Children for Adults program. (A safe environment program geared toward adolescents may be used if available)

### **Background Check**

Background checks cannot be conducted, without the parents permission, on any child under the age of 18. Therefore background checks are not recommended on persons younger than 18 years of age.

### **Supervision**

Children under the age of 18 volunteering in a child based school or church program must be supervised by adults that have completed all the requirements of the diocese safe environment program, (training and background checked). Children under the age of 18 should not be left alone to supervise or assist other children. Adults should be present at all times.

### **Catholic School Students Volunteering in Public School Programs**

Before Catholic school students are allowed to volunteer in child based mentoring programs offered by the public school the public school should sign a document stating that an adult or adults will be present to supervise the student(s) at all times.