

Guidelines for Ethical Conduct

This Guidelines for Ethical Conduct is based upon core tenants of responsible and faithful service; equity and justice; dignity and worth of all people; integrity and trustworthiness; competence with humility; and the importance of the role of the Divine in human relationships. It sets the values, principles, and standards to guide decision-making and conduct when ethical issues arise, which Spiritual Directors seek to internalize and strive to aspire. Ethical conduct flows from lived reverence for all humanity. This guideline is meant to inspire Spiritual Directors toward the core tenants in their ministry at Dominican Center.

The Guidelines for Ethical Conduct states the anticipated standards for responsible conduct by Spiritual Directors, and it is intended as a supportive rather than restrictive structure, as the Spirit continues to work in and through Spiritual Directors with creative freedom. Adherence to the Guidelines for Ethical Conduct enhance the dignity of the spiritual direction ministry. It gives the public greater confidence, that we are committed to standards of integrity and authenticity.

This guideline is based upon the responsibilities pertaining to the Spiritual Director's exercise of power within this ministry. It is divided into six sections that reflect the diverse areas of responsibility. There is no order of priority in the Guidelines for Ethical Conduct; each area assumes its own importance on different occasions.

1. Spiritual Directors' Ethical Responsibilities to Directees
 - a. Covenant: Spiritual Directors initiate conversation and establish a mutual understanding of the director ~ directee relationship. A Spiritual Direction Agreement is, for example a tool that Spiritual Directors can use to support this initial conversation. (An example is provided in the appendix).
 - b. Dignity: Spiritual Directors value and honor the dignity of spiritual directees. Professional/Ministerial Boundaries: Spiritual Directors maintain clear professional/ministerial boundaries in relationship with spiritual directees.
 - c. Multiple Relationships: Spiritual Directors avoid being in dual roles with spiritual directees.
 - d. Confidentiality: Spiritual Directors protect the confidentiality and privacy of spiritual directees except withn directee experience abuse, neglect and is a threat to themselves or others.
2. Spiritual Directors' Ethical Responsibilities to Colleague.
 - a. Respect: Spiritual Directors treat colleagues and other professionals with dignity and respect.
 - b. Intra and Interdisciplinary Relationships: Spiritual Directors develop collegial relationships with other spiritual care providers and professionals.

- c. **Supervision and Consultation:** Spiritual Directors seek the wisdom and discernment of colleagues through ongoing supervision and needed consultation.
 - d. **Confidentiality:** Spiritual Directors preserve confidential information shared by colleagues during their professional relationships and transactions.
 - e. **Referrals:** Spiritual Directors support referrals to other professionals when specialized knowledge, experience, and expertise are necessary.
- 3. **Spiritual Directors' Ethical Responsibilities to Dominican Center at Marywood**
 - a. **Covenant:** Spiritual Directors annually review and commit to the Guidelines for Ethical Conduct and expectations for Spiritual Directors to actively serve in the spiritual direction ministry.
 - b. **Personal Spirituality:** Spiritual Directors foster healthy growth in their own spiritual lives by receiving spiritual direction.
 - c. **Supervision:** Spiritual Directors develop professional competence and accountability through ongoing supervision and needed consultation.
 - d. **and Formation:** Spiritual Directors increase their spiritual knowledge and contemplative listening skills through continuing education and formation.
 - e. **Self-Care:** Spiritual Directors exercise holistic health by attending to physical, mental, emotional, and relational wellbeing.
- 4. **Spiritual Directors' Ethical Responsibilities to the Ministry of Spiritual Direction**
 - a. **Calling:** Spiritual Directors continue to discern their call to the ministry of spiritual direction.
 - b. **Competence:** Spiritual Directors strive to be proficient in the practice of spiritual direction and stay current with emerging knowledge related to the ministry.
 - c. **Integrity:** Spiritual Directors uphold and advance the values, principles, and standards of the ministry of spiritual direction.
 - d. **Not Psychotherapy, Counseling, Proselytism or Evangelism:** Spiritual Directors know and support what spiritual direction is and is not; attempting to analyze, to convert by any means necessary, or share one's faith by catechesis and rational argument are not aspects of spiritual direction.
 - e. **Ministry of Humility:** Spiritual Directors promote and act with humility as representatives of the ministry of spiritual direction.
- 5. **Spiritual Directors' Ethical Responsibilities to Faith Communities**
 - a. **Relationships:** Spiritual Directors build and maintain a responsible relationship to communities of faith.

- b. Respectful: Spiritual Directors are open to and respectful of diverse spiritual traditions, faith communities and world views.
- 6. Spiritual Directors' Ethical Responsibilities to Society
 - a. Qualifications and Affiliations: Spiritual Directors represent their qualifications and affiliations truthfully.
 - b. Nature and Purpose of Spiritual Direction: Spiritual Directors define the nature and purpose of spiritual direction accurately.
 - c. Spiritual Availability to the Underserved: Spiritual Directors seek opportunities to be spiritually available to all people, with special regard for the vulnerable, disadvantaged, oppressed, and exploited.
 - d. Non-Discrimination: Spiritual Directors are respectful of human diversity, and supportive of practices and policies of non-discrimination.
 - e. Guiding Directees Experiencing physical, Abuse: PLEASE NOTE CAREFULLY: Reporting abuse, neglect, and harm to self: According to Michigan Law, Spiritual Directors are not on the list of Mandatory Reporters. It is expected, however, that Spiritual Directors comply as an ethical response, in reporting to the appropriate and designate authority any reports by directee of immediate danger and if present or current child or adult abuse, neglect, or exploitation is reported. Also report to the appropriate authorities when there is sufficient cause to believe an individual intends to harm self or others. Spiritual Directors can directly report and/or can seek the support of the Director of Dominican Center. Please inform the Director of Dominican Center that a report has been made within 24 hours of report.

The handling of these situations is sensitive in nature. The Spiritual Director seeks the guidance of their Spiritual Director Supervisor and/or Director of Dominican Center if there is some uncertainty of how to respond to these types of situations. Spiritual Directors discuss at the onset of spiritual direction what can or cannot be held confidential and in confidence especially in these matters. Spiritual Directors know that these types of situations require the support and guidance of other professionals to support the safety of the directee.

PLEASE REVIEW CAREFULLY

Mandatory Reporting: The following linked document provides information on mandatory reporting: http://www.michigan.gov/documents/dhs/Pub-112_179456_7.pdf

Michigan Law: The Michigan Department of Health and Human Services offers valuable information and a step by step process in making a report. The information on this site is an excellent and provides a full scope of what to do in the case you suspect, abuse, neglect, and

harm to self both to children and the elderly. Please review this carefully:

http://www.michigan.gov/mdhhs/0,5885,7-339-73971_7119---,00.html .

Resources

- Spiritual Directors International, Guidelines for Ethical Conduct
- All Ireland Spiritual Guidance Association, Code of Ethics
- Australian Ecumenical Council for Spiritual Directors, Code of Ethics
- The London Spirituality Centre, Code of Practice
- The Retreat Association of the United Kingdom, Spiritual Direction Guidelines
- Association of Christian Spiritual Directors, Inc., New Zealand, Code of Ethics
- National Association of Social Workers, Code of Ethics