

SCREENING FOR DRUG USAGE -- STUDENTS

The Catechism of the Catholic Church states that:

The political community has a duty to honor the family, to assist it, and to ensure especially ... the protection of security and health, especially with respect to dangers like drugs, pornography, alcoholism, etc. ... The use of drugs inflicts very grave damage on human health and life. Their use, except on strictly therapeutic grounds, is a grave offense. Clandestine production of and trafficking in drugs are scandalous practices. They constitute direct cooperation in evil, since they encourage people to practices gravely contrary to the moral law.

Catechism of the Catholic Church §2211, §2291

The Catholic Diocese of Peoria is committed to providing the most optimal educational environment possible for all students attending the schools of the diocese. In order to assist parents, the primary educators of their children, and to work toward the establishment of a safe and drug-free environment, students enrolled in any of the Catholic high schools of the diocese will be screened for drug usage in accordance with the procedures outlined in the accompanying administrative regulation.

The church community recognizes its duty to honor the family and to assist it. This same community wishes to ensure the protection of security and health in all matters, but in a special way with regard to dangers such as drug usage. The program of screening for drug usage is intended to:

- (1) Deter young adults from beginning or continuing drug use, and
- (2) Identify young adults who are harmfully involved in drug use so that they can be steered into appropriate drug education and treatment.

We wish to empower our students with knowledge and skills in order to make responsible decisions about their behaviors. We believe that the most effective deterrent to drug usage is openness and communication among students, parents, and the school community. This collaborative effort serves to enhance all aspects of school life in order to produce healthy, positive and productive citizens.

Attendance at a Catholic high school is not a right, but it is a privilege. With the privilege comes certain responsibilities. We hold students and their parents, or guardians, to a high code of behavior in areas that affect the well-being and safety of all students. All students and parents are required to consent to participation in all the aspects of this policy and its accompanying administrative regulation as a condition of the student's continued enrollment at a Catholic high school in the Diocese of Peoria.

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SECTION I—PROHIBITIONS

Students will be screened for drug usage utilizing diocesan approved drug testing services employing radioimmunoassay technology in the analysis of hair (RIAH) and post-positive GC/MS, LC/MS or MS/MS confirmation testing. Specifically, samples will be submitted to a diocesan approved drug testing company for RIAH detection of the presence of Cocaine, Opiates, Phencyclidine (PCP), Marijuana, and Methamphetamine. Post-positive testing includes GC/MS, LC/MS or MS/MS confirmation for Benzoyllecgonine (Cocaine Metabolite), Opiates (Heroin/Morphine/Codeine), PCP, Carboxy-THC (Marijuana Metabolite), Methamphetamine, and Ecstasy. The use of such drugs by students without legitimate medical authorization is prohibited. The Catholic Diocese of Peoria reserves the right to test for additional drug substances as such screening becomes available.

SECTION II—SCREENING FOR DRUG USAGE

Students enrolled in any of the Catholic high schools of the Diocese of Peoria will be screened for drug usage as follows:

- 1) **Annual Screening:** All students will be screened for drugs at least once per year.
- 2) **Random Screening:** Any student enrolled in any of the Catholic high schools of the Diocese of Peoria is subject to screening for drug usage on a randomly selected basis in addition to the annual screening. Consequently, some students may be tested more than once a year.
- 3) **Screening Based Upon Behavior:** Any student who displays behavior that may be related to the use of prohibited substances, or is otherwise demonstrating conduct that may be in violation of this policy and administrative regulation, will be required to submit to screening. If the observed conduct could possibly endanger the student or others, the student may be removed from the school immediately and placed in the care of the student's parents or guardians. A student may be directed to submit to screening based upon their behavior before, during or after the school day or a school-sponsored activity.
- 4) **Follow-Up Screening:** Any student found to be in violation of this policy and administrative regulation will be subject to follow-up screening. Such follow-up screening will take place ninety (90) days after the student has received a positive test result.
- 5) **Transfer Students:** All transfer students shall submit to screening for drug usage on a date as soon as possible after applying for admission. Admission is not complete until the screening has taken place and results showing the absence of drug usage are obtained. Transfer students who test positive for drug usage shall not be admitted.

SECTION III—DRUG SCREENING METHOD

The Catholic high schools of the Diocese of Peoria will use hair-sampling procedures for the purposes of policy implementation. Normally, a small sample of head hair will be collected from the students by trained personnel. However, if a sample of head hair cannot be obtained, body hair collected from the arm or leg will be used for the drug screening method. Therefore, it is expected (except in certain situations) that students will wear a hair style that allows for a sample of head hair to be collected.

SECTION IV—NOTIFICATION OF TEST RESULTS

Notification of test results will be given to the Principal or Drug Screening Coordinator of the program in each school by the drug testing company. The Drug Screening Coordinator will also notify the chaplain. Parents and guardians and students shall be notified of a positive test result as soon as possible by the Principal or Drug Screening Coordinator. It is left to the discretion of each local high school as to whether or not they will notify parents and guardians in regard to a negative test result.

If a student tests positive for prohibited substances, that student and his parents or guardians shall be required to meet with the Principal or Drug Screening Coordinator to determine the necessary follow-up steps. Such a student will be required to receive an immediate assessment by a substance abuse professional approved by the Principal or Drug Screening Coordinator. This student and his family must agree to follow the plan of treatment established by the substance abuse professional and must agree to provide the school with the initial assessment and information regarding a plan of treatment. The assessment of any student engaged in extra-curricular activities must consider whether this student will be allowed to continue to engage in extra-curricular activities or what limitations will be placed upon such activities. Furthermore, each local high school with the approval of the Office of Catholic Schools may adopt further punitive or disciplinary policies to be implemented if the student tests positive for prohibited substances. Such local policies will be noted in the Parent/Student Handbook. The substance abuse professional shall be required to advise the school if the student fails to follow the plan of treatment, in which case the student will be subject to school discipline, including the possibility of expulsion. Upon completion of necessary treatment, the student must submit to follow-up testing as set forth in Section II above or such other method as proposed by the substance abuse professional and agreed to by the high school. All costs associated with assessment, treatment and follow-up testing shall be borne by the student or the student's parents or guardians.

In the case of students who test positively for prohibited substances on a second or more occasions during their high school career, the Principal of the high school in consultation with the President of the Pastor's Board and the Superintendent of Schools may determine to exercise discipline, including the possibility of recommending expulsion.

The high school will make reasonable attempts to keep information respecting positive drug tests and the follow-up procedures of the school confidential. However, the school cannot be responsible for information that must be shared (for example, with the coach that the student must limit participation in an extra-curricular activity) or as required by law or for information that is shared with others by the student or the parents or guardians of the student.

SECTION V—APPEAL OF TEST RESULTS

If the student or his or her family feels the test results are erroneous, the student or family has the right to request that a second test be taken. This test must be requested and taken within three (3)

days of the positive result. The cost shall be borne by the student, parents or guardians. Furthermore, all requests for a second test will be submitted to the same company that provided the initial test results for hair analysis, and the student may not alter their hairstyle prior to the second test. If the second test results vary from the first test results, the school and the parents or guardians will discuss the further action to be taken; however, the school's decision shall be final.

SECTION VI—RETENTION OF RECORDS

No documentation pertaining to each student's screening for drug usage will be made part of the student's permanent record. All documentation will be kept in a separate confidential file with the Drug Screening Coordinator and will be destroyed upon three (3) years of the student's graduation from high school.

SECTION VII—ANNUAL NOTIFICATION

Each secondary school shall submit a report to the Office of the Catholic Schools annually. This report shall include data on the number of students tested (but not their names), the dates of the tests and the number of positive and the number of negative results obtained.