

SECTION 2 CODE OF ETHICS

The Hospitaller Order of Saint John of God - Province of the Good Shepherd in North America, hereafter called the “Order”, earnestly strives to fulfill its Mission through the evangelical consecration of its members and the lived expression of the common life.

With this in mind we recognize that we have a moral obligation to require from our membership behavior that will enhance our Mission and offer guidance to them in their professional relations towards all whom they meet and minister to.

1. We maintain responsible association with the Roman Catholic Church in which we have spiritual, moral and canonical obligations according to the Constitutions and Statutes of the Order.
2. We will always act in such manner as to promote the reign of God, protect and safeguard the rights, dignity and uniqueness of all persons we meet regardless of race, color, creed, age, gender, disability, national origin, sexual orientation, marital status, and socio-economic background or circumstance.
3. We recognize human sexuality as a gift from God and sacred to the dignity of the human person. Due to the inviolable nature of our vowed commitment to God and to each other in celibate chastity, all forms of sexual expression between members, either in person or electronic interaction, as well as between members and clients, co-workers, volunteers and persons associated with the Order and its ministries is strictly prohibited. Sexual interactions, either in person or electronically, between members and persons in or outside of the Order and its ministries are recognized as a serious breach of this Code of Ethics. Any such behavior performed by members of the Order is behavior performed outside the scope of our agency.
4. We will maintain professional relationships and boundaries with clients, co-workers, volunteers and persons associated in ministry. We will refrain from any form of harassment or inappropriate demands, threats, gestures, innuendos, remarks, jokes, slurs or taunting that would, in any way, intimidate or injure the dignity of persons with whom we work or serve. We will endeavor to recognize and terminate those relationships which could impair our professional judgment, compromise our personal integrity and/or tempt us to utilize relationships for personal power or gain. Recognizing that our ministries often involve an imbalance of power, we will not abuse, in any way, the trust and dependency of persons who are in receipt of our care.
5. We will strive to manage our personal lives in a healthy fashion and seek appropriate professional assistance for our personal problems and conflicts.
6. Our respect for life calls us to recognize that gossip can cause irretrievable damage to the integrity, dignity and reputation of person or persons who are its focus. Members engaging in slanderous or malicious gossip will be confronted as being in breach of this code of ethics and will be subject to appropriate reprimand by the Provincial Superior.

7. We will adhere to the policies, procedures and legal requirements necessary to ensure the furtherance of the Order's Charism and Mission. All members are required to comply with the Policies and Procedures of the Order, and their respective ministry centers.
8. We will accurately represent all members' professional qualifications in their respective employment. We are committed to higher education and/or technical training to enrich the professional competence of each member involved in works approved by the Order.
9. We will respect and protect as confidential all personal information concerning members, benefactors, clients, co-workers and employers. We will not disclose any personal information to any party or parties without valid moral cause, or as mandated by law.
10. We will perform our ministries as conscientious advocates for the concerns of the sick, the poor and disadvantaged members of society. We will always serve as promoters of compassion, justice and peace.
11. We will respect the personal rights of clients in the implementation of service programs in all ministries conducted or sponsored by the Order.
12. We will report to the appropriate authority any area of concern regarding the physical, psychological and social well-being of the Brothers, clients and co-workers, and will report those circumstances in ministry that could jeopardize their personal health, safety and security.
13. We will refuse any gift, favor or hospitality from clients or co-workers which could be interpreted as a conflict of interest, undue influence or an attempt to obtain preferential treatment within the operation of ministry.

*Approved by the Provincial Curia of the
Province of the Good Shepherd in North America
– February 2016*