



SAFE ENVIRONMENT REQUIREMENTS FOR LEADERSHIP OF ASSOCIATIONS AND MOVEMENTS RECOGNIZED BY THE ADOM

POLICY

Recognizing that each individual is created by God, the Archdiocese of Miami (ADOM) is committed to the safety and well-being of its children and vulnerable adults and implements procedures to minimize risk as well as build and foster a culture that creates a safe environment.

This policy regarding safe environment requirements is applicable to International Associations and Movements, whether under the auspices of the Dicastery for Laity, Family, and Life or any Movements operating solely within the boundaries of the Archdiocese of Miami.

The Archdiocese of Miami recognizes International Associations and Movements approved by the Dicastery for Laity, Family, and Life (Vatican) in order that they may operate within the Archdiocese to support the evangelization of the people of God within its boundaries. In addition, Movements recognized by the Archdiocese may be approved by the Archdiocese to operate solely within its boundaries.

The Church recognizes that the faithful have, because of their baptism, the right of association, and it protects their freedom to found and govern them. Among the various forms in which this right is exercised are the associations of the faithful (cf. cc. 215; 298-329 of the *Code of Canon Law*), which, particularly since Vatican Council II, have flourished considerably, producing an abundance of graces and apostolic fruits for the Church and the world of today. The internal government of associations, recognized and protected as indicated above, should, however, be exercised within the limits established by the general norms of the Church, the statutory norms of each association, and in conformity with the dispositions of the ecclesiastical authority competent for their recognition and for the supervision of their life and activities – in this case, the Archbishop of Miami.

While the Archdiocese of Miami recognizes as Catholic several International Associations and Movements, such recognition does not imply ownership, operation or administrative oversight by the Archdiocese. The recognized associations and movements are authorized by the Dicastery for Laity, Family and Life to operate within the geographic territory of the Archdiocese of Miami and can be found listed on the Archdiocesan web sit. The Archdiocese does not assume responsibility for their activities, ministry programs, or management.

While the activities, meetings, events or gatherings of Movements are generally attended by adults, on occasion, children may be present. If so, children must always be supervised by the minor's parent or legal guardian. If a facility belonging to the Archdiocese of Miami is used (such as parish church, school classroom or other meeting space) the policies of the ADOM must be fully followed at all times. This includes the requirement that

- minors (under 18 years of age) MAY NEVER SUPERVISE others who are minors; and
- minors must be supervised by their own parent/guardian, or, with the consent of their parent/guardian, must be supervised by an adult who is fully compliant with the ADOM requirements of fingerprinting/background screening, initial Virtus training, and on-going education via monthly Virtus bulletins.

The leader of the International Association or Movement (President, Chair, Responsible, etc.), who is the senior most member of the Organization responsible to the ADOM for on-going operations of the Organization within the Archdiocese must individually fulfill the safe environment requirements of the ADOM for leaders, as per its policy referenced below. That is, the Organization's leader (an individual) must be fingerprinted and background screened, complete the initial Virtus training module (approximately 90 minutes, on-line) and monthly read and respond to the Virtus bulletins. Fingerprints must be renewed every five (5) years; bulletins must be read monthly with a maximum one (1) pending as the standard to meet



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compliance.

The Leader of the Organization, when registering for Virtus initial training and on-going monthly bulletins should identify their location as MOVEMENTS. *Please do not register as a parish or school location.* There will be choices on a drop-down menu. **Please choose MOVEMENTS as the choice.**

If the Leader of a Movement becomes non-compliant with the above safe environment requirements, the approval of the ADOM for the Movement's operation within the Archdiocese will be *suspended* until compliance is again restored.

Reference: ADOM Policy Creating and Maintaining a Safe Environment for Children and Vulnerable Adults, June 2025
ADOM Policy Safe Environment Requirements for Volunteer Roles, June 2025

Initial: June 2025
Current: