

The *Ethical and Religious Directives* are concerned primarily with institutionally based Catholic health and human services. They address the sponsors, trustees, administrators, chaplains, physicians, health care personnel, clinicians, and patients, clients, or residents of these institutions and services. Since they express the Church's moral teaching, these Directives also will be helpful to Catholic professionals engaged in health care services in other settings. The moral teachings that we profess here flow principally from the natural law, understood in the light of the revelation Christ has entrusted to his Church. From this source the Church has derived its understanding of the nature of the human person, of human acts, and of the goals that shape human activity.

The Directives have been refined through an extensive process of consultation with bishops, theologians, sponsors, administrators, physicians, and other health care providers. These are reviewed periodically by the Conference of Bishops.

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Preamble General Introduction

PART ONE The Social Responsibility of Catholic Health & Human Services

- We are a community of Care animated by the Gospel
- We act with mutual respect
- We use resources responsibly
- Treat employees respectfully & justly
- Organization should distinguish itself by service to & advocacy for the marginalized & vulnerable

PART TWO The Pastoral and Spiritual Responsibility of Catholic Health & Human Services

- We treat all in a manner that respects human dignity
- Care must embrace whole person – physical, psychological, social, & spiritual

PART THREE The Professional-Patient Relationship

- Grounded in respect for human dignity
- Requires mutual respect, trust, honesty and appropriate confidentiality
- Inherent dignity of human person must be respected and protected
- Respect privacy & confidentiality
- Respect decisions to forego treatment

PART FOUR

Issues in Care for the Beginning of Life

- Catholic health & human service witnesses to the sanctity of human life (from conception to death)
- Respect for the marriage act
- Reproductive technologies that substitute for marriage act are inconsistent with human dignity
- Forbids: Direct abortion, Direct sterilizations, "Contraceptive practices"
 - i.e. our teaching of staff and clients must adhere to the Catholic Church's teaching, and no contraceptives may be distributed
- Cannot do anything that separates the unitive & procreative aspects of conjugal act
 - i.e. the Catholic Church forbids In Vitro Fertilization

PART FIVE

Issues in Care for the Dying

- We face death with the confidence of faith
- Relief of pain and suffering are critical
- Provide people with appropriate opportunities to prepare for death
- Use proportionate means of preserving life
- No moral obligation to employ disproportionate or too burdensome treatments
- Respect free and informed decisions of people about their treatment
- Euthanasia & physician-assisted suicide are not permitted
- Presumption in favor of nutrition & hydration

PART SIX

Forming New Partnerships with Health Care Organizations and Providers

- Made in consultation with the diocesan bishop
- Partnerships must respect church teaching and discipline

Conclusion



Catholic Charities Health and Human Services

Statement of Ethics

While on the job, Catholic Charities staff shall conduct themselves in accordance with: Christian values; all federal, state, and local laws and regulations; respective professional codes of ethics; and the Religious and Ethical Directives of the Catholic Church.

In the event of a dispute or conflicting directives, the Religious and Ethical Directives of the Catholic Church shall supersede all other codes of ethics.

Employee Name (Please Print)

Employee Signature

Date