

# Transportation

## Law

- In an automobile: one seat belt, one passenger
- By mandate of the Ohio Dept. of Education and the Ohio Revised Code, schools MUST transport by bus

## Policy

- The *Decree on Child Protection (C.9 Policy)* allows one adult in a vehicle when multiple cars/vans are going to the same location (policy) and the vehicles will be in a caravan. The C.9 Policy requires that children must never be transported without written permission from the parent or guardian; that children must be transported directly to their destination and no unauthorized stops may be made; that priests, deacons, auxiliary services personnel, personnel furnished by a third party contractor, employees or volunteers must avoid unnecessary physical contact with children while in the vehicle.

## USCCB Requirement

- 15 passenger vans are prohibited since May 2005 as per the recommendation of the General Secretary of the USCCB. This recommendation is a result of the findings of the National Transportation Safety Board (NTSB) that these vehicles are unsafe.

## Archdiocesan Recommendations and Clarifications

- For liability reasons, the Archdiocese prefers that buses rented from a third-party who supplies the driver are used for transportation.
- When Church leaders are providing transportation for an event, a teen may drive him/herself (and siblings) only with written parental/guardian permission. They may not transport other passengers.
- Insurance: The driver's insurance is the primary insurance coverage, not the Archdiocese.
- If an event begins and ends at the site of an activity, the Church leader does not need to organize the transportation.
- Church leaders never organize transportation for parish events using drivers under the age of 21.
- If someone is a driver for a parish event, the Church leader confirms a valid drivers license and adequate liability insurance coverage
- The Archdiocese recommends that drivers carry liability coverage of at least \$1,000,000.00.

Revised January 2009

Reviewed and still in effect February 2010