

9 - Addiction and Gambling Policies

Addiction Policy

The Diocese of Texas will follow the outlined guidelines for clergypersons who experience chemical abuse or dependency:

- Exploratory questioning about chemical abuse or dependency;
- Consideration of a formal chemical dependency assessment from a credentialed chemical dependency treatment specialist;
- For consideration for employment, the person will be assessed after a period in the range of two to five years, depending on the following:
 - motivation to obtain assessment and treatment
 - response to treatment of not less than two years of sobriety
 - achievement of sobriety
 - record of relapse prevention

Gambling Policy

Gambling is defined as participation in any game or activity where money or objects of value may be won by chance.

Gambling must not be a regular or frequent part of the activities of any congregation, school, or diocesan institution. Occasional special events or fundraisers that include bingo or a raffle are permissible, provided the value of any prize does not exceed the \$600 IRS reporting threshold.

This policy applies to any event or activity of a diocesan institution, congregation, or church-related entity such as a school, youth group, outreach ministry, and the like, regardless of the location of the event or activity.

All congregations, diocesan institutions, schools, and church-related entities must comply with this policy if any form of gambling is permitted at all.