

# CODE OF ETHICS



**SASMAD**

Service d'accompagnement spirituel  
des personnes malades ou âgées à domicile

**Pastoral Home Care**

**SASMAD**

1335, rue Chabanel Est  
Montréal, Québec H2M 2N8

## **Mission of the Volunteer**

**WITH FAITH IN JESUS CHRIST** who calls on the volunteer to go and visit the sick in their homes.

**IN THE CHURCH**, the volunteer is committed to responding to the spiritual needs of those who are suffering, in the present context of the provincial health reform, regardless of their beliefs.

**THROUGH ACCOMPANYING THEM**, the volunteer helps the beneficiaries find coherence, meaning and direction in their lives so that they may discover hope and relief in the midst of their hardships.

**IN THE SPIRIT OF THE GOSPEL**, the volunteer develops attitudes of welcoming, listening, empathy, acceptance, gentleness and compassion.

**THE VOLUNTEER REASSERTS AND PROCLAIMS** the values of respect for life and the dignity of the person, values that motivate and support his or her commitment.

## Fundamental Approaches

***This code of ethics is based on the following values and approaches:***

- The dignity of the human being is a basic fundamental value. The recognition of the dignity of the person entails the respect of the autonomy of the accompanied person.
- Spiritual life and religious faith are factors that build important foundations in the healing process.
- ***Openness of mind, empathy and accompaniment*** complement the values directly associated with ethics.

## Act of Accompaniment

- The volunteer supports and respects the accompanied person;
  - adopts an attitude of **respect** and **collaboration** with the other members of the healthcare team with a view to the overall well-being of the accompanied person.

## Conflicts of Interest

- In the context of the services that the volunteer provides to the accompanied person, he or she must avoid any situation that could even appear to be a conflict of interest. In particular, the volunteer must not:
  - Accept any gift (either directly or through a third party) from the person being accompanied;
  - Be designated or allow oneself to be designated administrator of the property and/or person of the one being accompanied;
  - Be designated or allow oneself to be designated executor or benefactor (either directly or through a third party) of the will of a person being accompanied.

## Accompaniment Relationship

- To be effective, spiritual and religious accompaniment requires **continuous** follow-up and commitment during the *process of accompaniment*.
- As needed, the volunteer will, with the agreement of the accompanied person, refer the person to a professional in a specific field.
- The volunteer is careful to respect the beliefs and customs of all the various religious traditions. As needed, the volunteer will not hesitate to refer the accompanied person to someone of the appropriate religion.
- The accompaniment will stop at the request of the accompanied person.

## Religious Respect

- The volunteer offers spiritual and religious accompaniment in accordance with the principles and beliefs of the Catholic Church.
- The volunteer refrains from attempts to proselytize or from engaging in religious harassment in order to bring the accompanied person around to his or her personal vision or beliefs.
- During the first visit between the volunteer and the accompanied person, it will be very important to identify the **spiritual** and/or **religious needs** of the accompanied person.

## **Commitment to Confidentiality**

- The volunteer undertakes to respect the confidentiality and privacy of the person accompanied during visits. Professional confidentiality must be maintained even after terminating one's services.
- The volunteer is not authorized to photograph the accompanied person or to record the visits with the person.

## **Promotion**

- Promotion of SASMAD services and other actions or decisions regarding advertising is the sole responsibility of the Service itself, which will see to the needs and follow the instructions of its sector and of the Director of SASMAD.

## **Processing Complaints**

- The actions of the volunteer fall under the overall pastoral policy of a parish. To lodge a formal complaint, the person being accompanied must contact the appropriate sector coordinator or the SASMAD Director.