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## Standard of Ethical Conduct for the State of Florida

Fully Adopted by Kingdom Culture Academy (Adapted from the Code of Ethics of the Education Profession in Florida and Principles of Professional Conduct for the Education Profession in Florida)

1. Our school values the worth and dignity of every person, the pursuit of truth, devotion to excellence, acquisition of knowledge, and the nurture of democratic citizenship. Essential to the achievement of these standards are the freedom to learn and to teach and the guarantee of equal opportunity for all.
2. Our primary concern is the student and the development of the student's potential. Employees will therefore strive for professional growth and will seek to exercise the best professional judgment and integrity.
3. Concern for the student requires that our instructional personnel:
  - a. Shall make reasonable effort to protect the student from conditions harmful to learning and/or to the student's mental and/or physical health and/or safety.
  - b. Shall not unreasonably restrain a student from independent action in pursuit of learning.
  - c. Shall not unreasonably deny a student access to diverse points of view.
  - d. Shall not intentionally suppress or distort subject matter relevant to a student's academic program.
  - e. Shall not intentionally expose a student to unnecessary embarrassment or disparagement.
  - f. Shall not intentionally violate or deny a student's legal rights.
  - g. Shall not harass or discriminate against any student on the basis of race, color, religion, sex, age, national or ethnic origin, political beliefs, marital status, handicapping condition, sexual orientation, or social and family background and shall make reasonable effort to assure that each student is protected from harassment or discrimination.
  - h. Shall not exploit a relationship with a student for personal gain or advantage.
  - i. Shall keep in confidence personally identifiable information obtained in the course of professional service, unless disclosure serves professional purposes or is required by law.
4. Aware of the importance of maintaining the respect and confidence of colleagues, of students, of parents, and of the community, employees of our school must display the highest degree of ethical conduct. This commitment requires that our employees:
  - a. Shall maintain honesty in all professional dealings.
  - b. Shall not on the basis of race, color, religion, sex, age, national or ethnic origin, political beliefs, marital status, handicapping condition if otherwise qualified, or social and family background deny to a colleague professional benefits or advantages or participation in any professional organization.
  - c. Shall not interfere with a colleague's exercise of political or civil rights and responsibilities.
  - d. Shall not engage in harassment or discriminatory conduct which unreasonably interferes with an individual's performance of professional or work responsibilities or with the orderly processes of education or which creates a hostile, intimidating, abusive, offensive, or oppressive environment; and, further, shall make reasonable effort to assure that each individual is protected from such harassment or discrimination.



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e. Shall not make malicious or intentionally false statements about a colleague.

**Training Requirement** All instructional personnel, educational support employees, and administrators are required as a condition of employment to complete training on these standards of ethical conduct.

**Reporting Misconduct** by Instructional Personnel and Administrators All instructional personnel, educational support employees, and school administrators have an obligation to report misconduct by instructional personnel, educational support employees, and school administrators which affects the health, safety, or welfare of a student. Examples of misconduct include obscene language, drug and alcohol use, disparaging comments, prejudice or bigotry, sexual innuendo, cheating or testing violations, physical aggression, and accepting or offering favors. Reports of misconduct of employees should be made to Karrie Smith.

Reports of misconduct committed by administrators should be made to Seth or Angel Shaw. Legally sufficient allegations of misconduct by Florida certified educators will be reported to the Office of Professional Practices Services. Policies and procedures for reporting misconduct by instructional personnel or school administrators which affects the health, safety, or welfare of a student are posted in the office and on our Website at [info@kingdomcultureacademy.org](mailto:info@kingdomcultureacademy.org).

**Reporting Child Abuse, Abandonment or Neglect** All employees and agents have an affirmative duty to report all actual or suspected cases of child abuse, abandonment, or neglect. Call 1-800-96-ABUSE or report online at: <http://www.dcf.state.fl.us/abuse/report/>.

**Signs of Physical Abuse** The child may have unexplained bruises, welts, cuts, or other injuries; broken bones; or burns. A child experiencing physical abuse may seem withdrawn or depressed, seem afraid to go home or may run away, shy away from physical contact, be aggressive, or wear inappropriate clothing to hide injuries.

**Signs of Sexual Abuse** The child may have torn, stained or bloody underwear, trouble walking or sitting, pain or itching in genital area, or a sexually transmitted disease. A child experiencing sexual abuse may have unusual knowledge of sex or act seductively, fear a particular person, seem withdrawn or depressed, gain or lose weight suddenly, shy away from physical contact, or run away from home.

**Signs of Neglect** The child may have unattended medical needs, little or no supervision at home, poor hygiene, or appear underweight. A child experiencing neglect may be frequently tired or hungry, steal food, or appear overly needy for adult attention.

**Patterns of Abuse:** Serious abuse usually involves a combination of factors. While a single sign may not be significant, a pattern of physical or behavioral signs is a serious indicator and should be reported.

**Liability Protections** Any person, official, or institution participating in good faith in any act authorized or required by law, or reporting in good faith any instance of child abuse, abandonment, or neglect to the department or any law enforcement agency, shall be immune from any civil or criminal liability which might otherwise result by reason of such action. (F.S. 39.203)

An employer who discloses information about a former or current employee to a prospective employer of the former or current employee upon request of the prospective employer or of the former or current



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employee is immune from civil liability for such disclosure or its consequences unless it is shown by clear and convincing evidence that the information disclosed by the former or current employer was knowingly false or violated any civil right of the former or current employee protected under F.S. Chapter 760. (F.S. 768.095)

**Finally, you must report known or suspected child abuse or neglect to the Florida Department of Children and Families Hotline at 1-800-96-ABUSE.**

You are protected from liability when you, as a mandatory reporter, file a report of known or suspected child abuse or neglect. Please see F.S.39.203 below in order to better understand your protection under the law. F.S.39.203 Immunity from liability in cases of child abuse, abandonment, or neglect.

(1)(a) Any person, official, or institution participating in good faith in any act authorized or required by this chapter, or reporting in good faith any instance of child abuse, abandonment, or neglect to the department or any law enforcement agency, shall be immune from any civil or criminal liability which might otherwise result by reason of such action.

(b) Except as provided in this chapter, nothing contained in this section shall be deemed to grant immunity, civil or criminal, to any person suspected of having abused, abandoned, or neglected a child, or committed any illegal act upon or against a child.

(2)(a) No resident or employee of a facility serving children may be subjected to reprisal or discharge because of his or her actions in reporting abuse, abandonment, or neglect pursuant to the requirements of this section.

(b) Any person making a report under this section shall have a civil cause of action for appropriate compensatory and punitive damages against any person who causes detrimental changes in the employment status of such reporting party by reason of his or her making such report. Any detrimental change made in the residency or employment status of such person, including, but not limited to, discharge, termination, demotion, transfer, or reduction in pay or benefits or work privileges, or negative evaluations within a prescribed period of time shall establish a rebuttable presumption that such action was retaliatory.

### **Honor Code**

As a teacher and leader I realize that I am a representative of Kingdom Culture Academy and the Lord Jesus Christ. I agree to continually develop the relationship I have with God through prayer and Bible study. I will also nurture my family relationships, giving them priority over my teaching responsibilities.

I commit myself to the school by meeting all guidelines set forth by my contract and the Student/Family and Employee/Staff handbooks. I will only speak life-giving words about the school, its leaders, the students, and families.

I will give attention to the development of relationships with my co-workers and families I serve. I will be a team player and work together in unity. I will keep my attitude positive and up-lifting. I will not be argumentative, or allow strife, division, or offenses. I will be quick to repent and forgive.

I agree to keep myself accountable to the administrative staff over me. I will not be offended by instruction but rather yield to my overseer with my heart surrendered to God's care. I recognize that I am not alone and if I need help I will contact my mentor-teacher and/or principal.



# KINGDOM

CULTURE ACADEMY

**Kingdom Culture Academy**

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I agree to obtain from profanity, tobacco products, alcoholic beverages, illegal drugs, sexual immorality (adultery, fornication homosexuality, pornography, etc) and all behaviors that would cause me to grieve Christ or cause me to influence those I serve and cause them to fall away from their faith. I will respect the opposite sex so as not to give the appearance of wrongdoing. I realize that I need to guard myself from temptation in any form and not put myself in any sort of compromising situation.

I will keep my personal business separate from my professional business. I will be personable yet professional, showing the love of Christ to those I serve to the best of my ability. I will not use my relationships to get personal favors or to profit myself but to serve others unselfishly.

I realize that living a holy lifestyle before God and others I have freedom to know the blessings found in Christ. In keeping the Honor Code I understand that I am not being restricted but liberated to know true freedom, joy, and peace purchased for me on the cross.

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Staff Signature

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Date