

The Catholic Archdiocese of Suva

Guidelines for Pastoral Counselling of Minors

1	Pastoral counseling of a minor must take place only in the professional portion of a rectory or parish residence never in the living quarters.
2	The Sacrament of Penance/Reconciliation is normally to be celebrated in a place identified for that purpose, e.g. reconciliation chapel, confessional, or other areas with visibility: The location should be acceptable to the confessor and confessee.
3	If possible, offices or classrooms used for pastoral counseling of a minor should have a window in the door or the door is to be left ajar during the counseling session.
4	If possible, another adult should be in close proximity during any counseling session.
5	Unless the subject matter precludes their presence or knowledge, parents or guardians of minors should be made aware of the counseling session.
6	If counseling is expected to extend beyond one session, evaluation of the situation should be made with the parents or guardians.
7	The adult is responsible to recognize any personal/physical attraction to or from a minor. In such a situation, the minor should be immediately referred to another qualified adult or licensed professional.