



The Most Reverend Charles C. Thompson
Archdiocese of Indianapolis
1400 N. Meridian Street
Indianapolis, IN 46202-2367
317-236-1403

Decree of Promulgation of the Crowdfunding Policy for the Archdiocese of Indianapolis

I, the undersigned, the Most Reverend Charles C. Thompson, D.D., J.C.L., Archbishop of Indianapolis, in accordance canon 8 §2 of the 1983 Code of Canon Law and after consultation with the priests and parish life coordinators of the Archdiocese of Indianapolis,

hereby decree that,

the following attached *Crowdfunding Policy for the Archdiocese of Indianapolis*, is to be implemented on 1 January 2018 as particular law for the Archdiocese of Indianapolis.

Furthermore, this particular law is to be communicated to the parties directly affected as well as being posted to the website of the Archdiocese of Indianapolis.

Dated this 5th day of December, 2017.

+ *Charles C. Thompson*

Most Reverend Charles C. Thompson, D.D., J.C.L.
Archbishop of Indianapolis

Annette "Mickey" Lentz

Annette "Mickey" Lentz
Chancellor

CROWDFUNDING POLICY FOR THE ARCHDIOCESE OF INDIANAPOLIS

A. Definition

Crowdfunding describes the practice of funding a project or venture by raising funds from many small donations from a large number of people, typically via the Internet. It can be used to fundraise for a wide variety of projects initiated by parishioners, students, and employees of the Archdiocese of Indianapolis. One website that many are familiar with is gofundme.com. There are also low-cost sites that cater to non-profit organizations, such as firstgivings.com.

B. Background Information

Over the years there have been several occasions when well-meaning parishioners have set up gofundme.com accounts or similar social media accounts to raise money for funeral expenses, medical costs or other related funding for specific members of the parish that have experienced a tragedy in their lives. Many times, these accounts have the name of a parish or school associated with the account. Sometimes these accounts are created without the knowledge of the pastor or other parish leadership.

While these accounts can be useful in helping a person(s) in need, they are also fraught with many legal issues and questions, such as:

1. Who owns the money in the account?
2. How are the funds to be used and who makes the decision?
3. Is the donation tax deductible?
4. What if the money is not used for the purpose set forth in the solicitation?
5. What if there is left over money after the purpose of the account has been met?

C. Policy:

In an effort to address these issues the following policy is prescribed:

1. No individual or group may use the name of a parish, school or the Archdiocese or any of its agencies in any public solicitation or group funding effort. A group funding page sponsored by an individual should not reference their affiliation to a parish, school or the Archdiocese, without express permission of the pastor, principal or director.
2. No individual or group may solicit funds in a manner that would imply that the public solicitation or group funding effort has the approval and/ or the support of the parish, school or the Archdiocese or any of its agencies.
3. Only group funding efforts that are sponsored and approved by the pastor, PLC or administrator of an Archdiocesan parish, principal of a school or director of an agency are permitted to use the name of parish, school or the Archdiocese in any solicitation. Such group funding efforts must also meet the following requirements.

D. Requirements:

Any group funding effort that is sponsored by an Archdiocesan parish, school or agency must meet the following requirements:

1. All group funding efforts must obtain the written approval of the Vicar General.
2. Prior to seeking approval for a crowdfunding project, the organizer(s) (defined as the pastor, administrator, PLC, principal or agency director) will identify:
 - a. The gift purpose(s). Acceptable purpose(s) include: relieving poverty, sickness or the needs of the aged, advancing education or advancing the religious missions of the organization.
 - b. The intended recipient(s) and how the recipient(s) are to be identified. (No group funding project can be for an identified individual or family).
 - c. The restrictions placed on the use of the gifts.
 - i. The dispossession of the gift if the charitable purpose is met or the intended recipient(s) is not identifiable.
 - ii. A budget for expenses that will be paid out pertaining to the project.
 - iii. The name of the pastor, administrator, PLC, principal or agency director that has approved the crowdfunding project.
3. All donated funds are to be deposited to a bank account for which the pastor, administrator, PLC, principal or agency director has signatory rights. The pastor, administrator, PLC, principal or agency director will be responsible for disbursement according to the terms of the approved funding purposes. (No funding project will be approved unless the target goal exceeds \$5000).
4. All funds deposited to the account become the property of the parish, school or agency, subject to the identified restriction for their use.
5. All gifts of property other than cash will satisfy the requirements of the Gift Acceptance Policies of CCF.
6. It is the responsibility of the organizer to understand and comply with all legal and regulatory requirements applicable to the crowdfunding activities (and all fundraising in general).
7. Those organizing the crowdfunding activities may not have a personal financial interest in the crowdfunding company. Those organizing the crowdfunding activities and their family members may not personally benefit from the gifts.

The organizers cannot accept gifts or anything of economic value from the crowdfunding company.

Effective as of the 1st day of January, 2018.

+ Charles C. Thompson
Most Reverend Charles C. Thompson, D.D., J.C.L.
Archbishop of Indianapolis

Annette "Mickey" Lentz
Annette "Mickey" Lentz
Chancellor