

DIOCESE OF CROOKSTON

11 to 15 Passenger Van, Bus and Shuttle Use Policy

The Diocese of Crookston has adopted the following policies governing the use of 11 to 15 passenger vans (whether owned, leased, or borrowed).

1. **The use of 11 to 15 passenger vans to transport children or adults is totally prohibited.** 11 to 15 passenger vans may be used for cargo hauling only if all but two front seats are removed.
2. 11-15 passenger vans can be replaced with either a school bus or a Multifunction School Activity Bus (MFSAB). An MFSAB is a vehicle which complies with the Federal Motor Vehicle Safety Standards (FMVSS) applicable to school buses for crash survivability and mirrors.
3. If an MFSAB is used for the transportation of children, these vehicles must meet FMVSS 111; FMVSS 220; FMVSS 221; and FMVSS 222 (see below). If purchasing an MFSAB to transport children, it is important to confirm with the seller that the vehicle meets all four FMVSS. There are vehicles that visually appear to be conforming, but are not.
4. When acquiring a bus or shuttle to transport adults, the four FMVSS should also be followed. However, CUP II (the organization that provides the diocese's excess liability insurance) may approve adult transportation for a nonconforming bus or shuttle that meets at least two of the FMVSS's in limited circumstances. Requests for exceptions should be submitted to Catholic Mutual.
5. Although MFSAB's are preferred, mini-vans may continue to be used to transport children or adults. A mini-van is defined as a passenger vehicle designed to transport no more than **8** total occupants.

Below are the four FMVSS referred to in the above policy. Additional information on how to determine if a bus or shuttle meets FMVSS standards can be obtained from Catholic Mutual's Risk Management Department at (800) 228-6108.

FMVSS 111-Fulfills the safety requirement for the rear-view and cross-view visibility.

FMVSS 220-Establishes requirements for the school bus body structure in rollover accidents.

FMVSS 221-Regulates the strength of body panel joints in school buses.

FMVSS 222-Establishes occupant protection requirements for school bus passenger seating and barriers.

Important note: Vans, Buses and Shuttle Buses capable of transporting 16 plus passengers must also comply with the above FMVSS. As outlined in number four of the above policy, exceptions can be made if the vehicle is used solely for the transport of adults.