



UNM Indiana & Illinois Delegate-Parent Code of Conduct & Title Agreement

USA National Miss Indiana and Illinois, herein after referred to as UNM IN/IL, is excited to welcome you as a state delegate. Our system requires a high standard of conduct from our representatives and their families, in order to project a positive image for our organization and pageantry as a whole.

This Code of Conduct and Title Agreement applies to all activities coordinated through UNM IN/IL including any local, state and national events – as well as personal activities carried out by the titleholder while holding any local, state or national title in the organization during her reign. The Delegate and Parent/Guardian are required to sign this Code of Conduct and agrees to abide by the Code of Conduct and Title Agreement, as well as the rules published on our website. Failure to sign does not waive the delegate or parent's agreement to the Code of Conduct and Title Agreement, as acceptance of a title with UNM IN/IL is the acknowledgment that the delegate and parent agree to the Code of Conduct and Title Agreement and all rules herein upon acceptance.

National Pageant Requirements

State titleholders are required to compete at nationals to represent their state or regional title. If a delegate does not fulfill her responsibility to compete at the national pageant for any reason, a withdrawal fee of \$250 shall be paid by the delegate to withdraw from her contractual obligation to represent her title at nationals and terminate this contract, and the delegate agrees that UNM has the delegate's permission to process the delegate's credit card on file, if applicable, to complete this payment. If a delegate does not fulfill her responsibility to compete at the national pageant, she will be required to relinquish her title, and return any and all prizes, including but not limited to the state crown, state sash, any and all scholarship money and prizes that may have been received at the state pageant or during the reign within 10 days. If the crown and sash are not returned clean and in good condition and within 10 days, the titleholders will be responsible for paying a \$250 replacement fee. No refunds will be given for any state or national fees paid, and any item pending shipment to the delegate will not be shipped until the withdrawal fee has been paid and the account has a zero balance. Holding a state or regional title in a prestigious national organization is an honor, and the responsibility should be taken seriously.

Delegates are required to attend all mandatory events during national competition week to represent their state or regional title. Delegates are not to leave the venue until the conclusion of the pageant, and must be present on stage during all required times, including post-pageant photos. Delegates who are not present during all required times agree to pay to a fine of \$250 due to the national office which the delegate agrees to pay, and delegate

agrees that UNM has permission to process their credit card on file, if applicable, to complete this payment if necessary.

Social Media and Appearances

Delegates must follow and like UNM IN/IL's and UNM's official social media on Facebook and Instagram @usanationalmissindiana, @unmillinois, usanationalmiss, and must like posts made on these accounts regularly to support the UNM brand. Delegates must post twice a week on their social media representing UNM and their state title, and tag UNM IN/IL as well as UNM @usanationalmiss in these posts.

Delegates are required to make a minimum of two appearances each month in crown and sash during their reign, which begins from the moment they are crowned or receive their title, until they return to crown their successor at next year's pageant. In the case of appointed titles, the delegate's reign expires after the national pageant. One out of the two required appearances each month should be charitable in nature, to support a personal platform or worthy cause under the USA National Miss national platform. Delegates under the age of 18 are required to have an official chaperone with them at all events and appearances.

Delegates understand that all their personal social media sites are a direct representation of UNM IN/IL and UNM and will monitor its contents to ensure that no materials posted violate this agreement. Provocative photos, inappropriate language, offensive slang, public negative comments, content containing alcohol/tobacco/drugs, controversial subjects, and behaviors deemed inappropriate, unsportsmanlike or divisive are not acceptable. This pertains to all personal, as well as UNM related social networking sites, blogs, websites, public appearances, etc.

Delegates agree that they will not post negative or disparaging comments about UNM IN/IL, or UNM, our staff, titleholders, directors, sponsors, volunteers, national pageant, state pageant, or any other party or event affiliated with UNM on any social forum, website, blog, networking site, chat boards, social media outlets, etc. If a delegate is found to be engaging in this type of behavior, or any negative press, she will be immediately dismissed from UNM and may be subject to litigation.

Delegates should utilize social media outlets to promote their title, upload photos of appearances and generate interest for USA National Miss in their state. Any social media pages created to promote the delegate's title should be named appropriately: UNM_INDIANA_(division)_TITLE YEAR or UNM_ILLINOIS_(division)_TITLE YEAR. No variation of this is acceptable.

Delegates should attend pageant related events, other pageants, community events, parades, charity functions, and other activities wearing the UNM crown and sash in order to promote their title. Delegates should be available to take photos, speak to groups, meet political figures and celebrities, and find ways to promote their title in areas of interest to them. Delegates will be responsible for booking their appearances and arranging their travel. The state and national office may provide opportunities for bookings as available.

Delegates should dress appropriately for every event to project a polished and professional appearance. Clothing should be age appropriate and fashionable, and the delegate should maintain proper grooming. Crown and sash should be worn to every public event as representative of UNM IN/IL as well as USA National Miss.

Non-Compete and First Priority

Being a titleholder is a job that should be taken seriously. The titleholder's job is to promote their title, promote UNM IN/IL, and be a role model and serve her community through the UNM crown. Because this job requires commitment, titleholders are not allowed to compete in any other national pageant prior to the UNM national pageant and can only compete in local and state pageants with approval from the state or national office, to ensure that the titleholder is not hindered from fulfilling this contract and devaluing the prestige of her title. Delegates understand that the UNM crown should take precedence over any other titles they may have. Accepting a state or regional title with USA National Miss confirms that the delegate will hold UNM as their first priority.

Behavioral Expectations

UNM IN/IL expects all delegates to conduct themselves in a manner that is courteous, professional and reflects positively for UNM. Delegates acknowledge that their behavior towards others is a direct representation of UNM. Disrespectful behavior toward other delegates, staff, directors, participants, and sponsors will not be tolerated and is grounds for immediate dismissal.

Delegates are expected to exhibit positive character and uphold exemplary behavior in their personal life as well as when representing USA National Miss in public. We believe that all queens involved in the organization, and their families, are to be held to a higher standard of morals and ethics, in order to represent the organization in a dignified manner. Delegates must be of upstanding moral character and must not have any type of criminal record or history. Delegates must not have posed for inappropriate photographs, videos or any other media. Any delegate found to have a criminal history or involved in any indecent scandal must immediately forfeit her state title with UNM, and she will forfeit all prizes received, including but not limited to the state crown, state sash, any and all scholarship money and prizes, and gifts or travel stipends awarded to them as state royalty and throughout their reign. Such items and reimbursements of any funds should be received at the state office within 10 days of notice of forfeit. If the delegate does not return the required items within 10 days, she agrees to pay a fine of \$250, and delegate agrees that UNM IN/IL has permission to process their credit card on file, if applicable, to complete this payment.

Delegates should dress appropriately, use appropriate language and act in a dignified manner at all times. Delegates should have a natural hair color and should cover up any tattoos when appearing in the UNM crown and sash. The display of body piercing is not allowed while in UNM crown and sash other than one earring in each ear. Public displays of affection are not acceptable when representing UNM and UNM IN/IL.

Delegates may not use alcohol, drugs, or tobacco, nor be associated with or remain in the presences of others using the substances while they are representing USA National Miss. Delegates of legal drinking age may not post photos with alcohol and may not drink alcohol at any event that she is representing USA National Miss. Delegates may not behave recklessly, engage in sexual misconduct, assault, threaten or harm another person nor may they misuse or abuse public or private property. They should speak and act respectful to adults, including their parents, while representing UNM.

Deadlines & Communication

Delegates should communicate with state and national directors in a timely fashion, out of respect for others' time and schedule. Delegate agrees to comply with all deadlines required by the national office. Failure to comply with national deadlines will cause the delegate to pay a \$50 late fee for any deadline items submitted past the deadline.

Positive Pageantry

UNM is a bully-free and drama-free pageant organization and as such, we will not tolerate bullying and drama in any form. Any delegate found to be engaged in any type of bullying another delegate or someone within the organization, will immediately be disqualified from the national pageant and no refunds will be provided. This includes parents and guardians.

In this zero-tolerance organization, USA National Miss does not entertain drama, gossip, negativity and bullying – on or off the stage. These types of behaviors are at complete odds with our positive approach to pageantry and will not be tolerated within our system and will be cause for immediate removal.

Parents and guardians are expected to do everything in their power to end bad behavior and support positive teamwork among their state and national sisters. Parents are to work directly with the state directors to resolve any issues that occur and be advocates of a solution.

As delegates under the age of 21 must be accompanied by a female parent or guardian, if a parent is involved in any of the bullying or negative behavior both the delegate and parent will be removed from UNM.

Any offense, regardless of its seriousness, will be handled at the national director's discretion with a warning, probation period or removal of title. If a delegate is removed from the organization, and the required items are not returned within 10 days, the delegate/parent-guardian agrees to pay a fine of \$250, and delegate agrees that UNM has the right to process their credit card on file to complete this payment, if one has been received. Delegate will also be subject to fees and contractual agreements at the state level.

Covid Waiver

Due to the worldwide pandemic of the novel Coronavirus (COVID-19), USA National Miss Indiana and Illinois (VE Productions) is following the guidelines and adhering to the mandates imposed by federal, state and local governments. Due to the capacity of COVID-19 to transmit from person-to-person through respiratory droplets, UNM IN/IL has put in place preventive measures to reduce the spread of COVID-19. By participating in any UNM activity or event, you freely assume all risks, both known and unknown, related to you and/or your child.

By participating, you are accepting that you are fully and personally responsible for your own and/or your child's safety and actions while and during participation and recognize that you may be at risk of contracting COVID-19. With full knowledge of the risks involved, you hereby forever release, waive, and discharge UNM and UNM IN/IL, its officers, directors, managers, officials, independent contractors, affiliates, employees, volunteers, representatives, successors, and assigns (The Released Party), from any and all liabilities, claims, demands, actions, liabilities, damages, expenses and causes of action whatsoever, including but not limited to those caused by the negligence or fault of UNM, directly or indirectly arising out of or related to any loss, damage, disease, injury, or death, that may be sustained by you and/or your child participating in any UNM activity. You agree not to sue UNM and agree to indemnify, defend, and hold UNM harmless from any and all damages resulting from your participation in events, and from and against any and all costs, expenses, damages, lawsuits, and/or liabilities or claims arising whether directly or indirectly from or related to any and all claims made by or against any of The Released Party due to injury, loss, or death from or related to COVID-19.

Acceptance of Terms

I have reviewed the Code of Conduct and Title Agreement and national rules on the website, I, as well as my parent or legal guardian, agree to uphold all of its provisions. I hereby release and forever discharge USA National Miss Scholarship Organization, USA National Miss Indiana and Illinois (VE Productions) its directors, employees, volunteers and staff from any and all claims and demands arising from damages or liabilities due to theft, accident, loss or injury resulting from participation in the USA National Miss Scholarship Program. I further covenant and agree that I will not sue the organization, its

directors individually, its employees, volunteers or staff for any claim for damages or liability. I have read and understand all of the policies and rules and agree to abide by them. I also give permission for photographs, videos, or audio tape to be used for promotional and publicity purposes in print media as well as the Internet. I understand that USA National Miss is not responsible for any prizes forfeited by sponsors. I understand that this contract is enforceable in court under state and federal laws.

Delegates representing UNM through a local pageant program are required to follow the same code of conduct set forth by UNM. This means that the organization under contract with UNM is also protected under the rules stated above. All delegates and their parents/guardians further covenant and agree not to sue the organization, its directors individually, its employees, volunteers or staff for any claim for damages or liability. I agree to abide by all of the rules and regulations set forth by UNM and its state directors. By signing this agreement on either online or below, I am certifying that I have read and agreed to all rules, which are published on the organization's website, handbooks and applications.

By accepting a local, state or regional title at USA National Miss, you are agreeing to the rules and policies herein. Every delegate completes the online registration form which includes the above code of conduct agreement and an acceptance of our national rules and policies as published on our website.