

DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES
DIVISION OF JUVENILE JUSTICE SERVICES
POLICY AND PROCEDURES

Policy No: 04-02	Effective Date: 10/15/04	Revision Date 7/10/17
Subject: Religious Programs		

I. Policy Statement

The Division recognizes the right of all juveniles to adhere to the guidelines and beliefs of their religion (subject to the limitations necessary to maintain facility safety and security), including having access to clergy and religious materials. The Division shall provide the opportunity for participation in religious services or other activities; however participation in such activities within Division facilities/programs is strictly voluntary. The Division does not endorse any religion or religious organization.

II. Rationale

Juveniles have a constitutional right to practice their religious beliefs, and the Division may not interfere with that right, unless reasonably necessary to prevent interference with security, programming and/or treatment needs of the juveniles. Additionally, religious organizations can assist juveniles while confined in Division facilities/programs and upon their release to the community.

III. Definitions

“Clergy” is a person who has an ecclesiastical relationship with the juvenile and is a duly ordained member of a religious group (e.g., priest, pastor, bishop or rabbi).

A “religious worker” is a volunteer who is associated with a particular religion and wishes to interact with a juvenile in Division custody.

“Religious services” are organized assemblies for worship and sermons that are normally conducted by clergy on a religion’s Sabbath.

“Religious programs” are religious or faith based activities other than religious services.

IV. Procedures

A. Religious Services and Programs

1. Accommodations for religious services shall be made for juveniles who wish to participate, provided they do not interfere with security, programming or the treatment needs of the juveniles. Every effort shall be made to accommodate the type of religious services requested by the juvenile and their parent(s) or guardian(s).

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2. Accommodations for other religious activities, practices, or items may be made, as long as they do not interfere with facility security, programming and/or treatment needs of the juveniles.
3. Accommodations shall be approved by the facility/program Assistant Program Director (APD). Approvals and denials shall be documented. Documentation shall include rationale (form 04-02B attached to this policy).
4. Staff shall supervise juveniles participating in religious services and activities in Division facilities/programs.
5. Participation in religious services and activities is strictly voluntary and juveniles shall not be required to participate, nor be confined or penalized for not participating.
6. Religious workers and clergy interacting with juveniles as part of scheduled programming shall meet the security and clearance requirements of JJS Criminal Background Checks Policy 01-08.
7. The facility/program APD may appoint a staff member, as a volunteer coordinator, to assist with organization and scheduling of religious services and activities, as part of the Division's reasonable accommodation of such activities.
8. Juveniles shall have access to religious publications and written materials. Staff shall inspect materials prior to distribution for contraband. The quantity of material may be limited based on safety and storage concerns.

B. Clergy Notification and/or Visitation

1. Staff shall inform juveniles of their right to request, in writing, their personal clergy be notified of their confinement, unless there is a "No Contact Order" by the court. The juvenile and a parent or guardian must sign the written request (form 04-02A attached to this policy), if the juvenile is under eighteen (18) years of age to authorize visitation by a personal clergy member who has not met the security clearance requirements.
2. Upon a juvenile's request for notification and parent/guardian approval, staff shall make phone contact with the juvenile's personal clergy and inform them;
 - a. the juvenile is in the custody of the Division;
 - b. the location of the juvenile;
 - c. the juvenile has requested a visit by the clergy;

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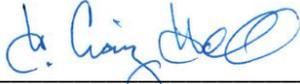
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- d. the need for confidentiality;
 - e. the clergy may visit during a requested appointment or during regular visiting hours.
3. Staff shall require clergy to sign in and show picture identification prior to each visit subject to the facility visitation procedures.
4. During visitation, clergy may provide additional religious programming as pre-approved by the facility/program APD.

V. Continuous Renewal

This policy shall be reviewed every three (3) years to determine its effectiveness and appropriateness. This policy may be reviewed before that time to reflect substantive change.

This policy has been reviewed by the Board of Juvenile Justice Services, and is approved upon the signature of the Director.



H. Craig Hall, Chair
Board of Juvenile Justice Services

7/10/17

Signature Date



Susan V. Burke, Director
Division of Juvenile Justice Services

7/10/17

Signature Date