

MEETING THE RELIGIOUS AND SPIRITUAL NEEDS OF YOUTH IN PROBATION FACILITIES

AUTHORITY:	California Code of Regulations, Title 15, Section 1372 Administrative Directive	
RESCINDS:	Procedure Manual Item 3-1-009, dated 8/18/23	
FORMS:	Religious Preference, Religious Follow-up and Parent Consent	(F057-9129)
	Religious Request	(F057-6008)
PURPOSE:	To outline departmental responsibilities in meeting the religious and spiritual needs of youth in Probation facilities.	

I. GENERAL INFORMATION:

- A. Per Section 1372 of Title 15, the facility administrator shall provide access to religious services and/or religious counseling at least once each week.
- B. A Religious Preference form is to be completed by every youth as soon as possible, after their entry into a facility.
- C. In the absence or failure of the parent or guardian to endorse the religious preference, **or if the youth is 18 years of age or older**, the youth's wishes will be honored.
- D. On any occasion when the youth changes their religious preference from one faith to the other, a new form must be completed.
- E. If a youth has indicated "None" upon entry, and later wants to attend a service, the youth can fill out a new form indicating which religious service they would like to attend.
- F. Any participation by youth in weekly religious services must be voluntary, with no semblance of pressure or coercion by peers, religious VIP's or staff. No controversial or denominational doctrines may be advocated at the non-denominational services and no altar calls, open invitations by showing of hands or coming forward may be used at any service.
- G. It is the responsibility of staff, all professional clergy representatives and volunteers to ensure confidentiality and right to privacy issues, as well as strict observance of all rules of the facility.
- H. Any religious literature for distribution to the youth must first be approved by the facility Assistant Division Director or designee.
- I. Youth will be allowed to attend only the service indicated on the Religious Preference forms (i.e., youth who indicate a Catholic preference will attend

Catholic services, youth who indicate a Protestant preference will attend Protestant services, etc.). YOUTH WHO SELECT MORE THAN ONE RELIGIOUS PREFERENCE WILL BE ALLOWED TO ATTEND ONLY ONE OF THE SELECTED RELIGIOUS SERVICES EACH WEEK.

- J. Each youth will be allowed access to the family's designated religious clergy for spiritual instruction, counseling or guidance. When no family religious clergy is designated, or when the family's religious clergy is unavailable, youth may request the services of a denominational religious clergy or may request the services of the facility's Protestant Chaplain/VIPs, or Catholic Chaplain/VIPs for instruction, counseling or guidance.
- K. If a youth or their family request the spiritual services of a denominational religious clergy, the facility Assistant Division Director or designee will attempt to schedule such services from denominational representatives who have indicated their willingness to serve in that capacity. Upon written request and verification, staff will arrange such services as directed by the Division Director.
- L. Parents/legal guardians may indicate their willingness for their child to have continuing contact with the religious clergy that provided services to their child in the juvenile facility following the child's release from custody by documenting their consent on the Religious Preference, Religious Follow-up and Parent Consent form (F057-9129).
- M. A youth shall be allowed to participate in an activity outside of their room if they elect not to participate in religious programs.
- N. A religious diet requested by a youth will be accommodated and monitored by facility staff and the facility Chief Cook.
- O. **All youth shall be allowed the opportunity to participate in Religious Services and Practices.**

II. PROCEDURE:

- A. Deputy **Probation** Correctional Officers will:
 - 1. Ensure all youth entering the facility have an up-to-date and complete Religious Preference form in their facility folders.
 - 2. Ensure all youth are aware of the process for obtaining religious instruction, guidance or counseling.
 - 3. Ensure all youth are aware they may request religious clergy representative follow-up upon release.
 - 4. On occasions when youth request counseling or instruction from their family's religious clergy, verify the request is consistent with the youth's Religious Preference form and forward the request to the unit Supervising **Probation** Correctional Officer (SPCO).
 - 5. When the family's religious clergy is unavailable, or when youth specifically request the services of the Protestant or Catholic Chaplain, provide the

youth with a Religious Request form, verify the request is consistent with the Religious Preference form, sign the completed form, and forward the request to the appropriate Chaplain's Office.

6. **Ensure youth be provided access to religious services and practices at least once each week.**
7. **Monitor and be present at religious service activities but not participate.**
8. **Provide and monitor alternative activities or programs for youth who choose not to attend a religious service.**
9. **Document the religious service and all youth who attended in our Integrated Case Management System (ICMS).**

B. Supervising **Probation** Correctional Officers will:

1. Upon receiving any request for family religious clergy, contact the youth's parent or guardian and when possible, make the necessary arrangements.
2. Ensure the guidelines listed in the "General Information" section are followed.
3. Ensure the instructions for obtaining religious guidance are posted in each living area and that all youth are aware of the request procedure.

C. The following must be posted in all living areas of all Probation Department facilities.

If you have indicated your interest on the Religious Preference Form, you may:

1. Request to see your family religious clergy for religious counseling, guidance or instruction. Upon your written request, staff will make every effort to arrange such an appointment for you.
2. Request to see religious clergy from your own denomination. If you do not have a family religious clergy, you may submit a written request for one. Staff will contact the Training and Volunteer Services unit, and every effort will be made to locate a representative as soon as possible from the denominational representatives.
3. Request to see the non-denominational Protestant Chaplain or the Catholic Chaplain if you do not have a family religious clergy or if your family's religious clergy is not available. Upon your written request, the Chaplain will plan to meet with you.
4. Request to attend weekly religious services unless prohibited for safety or security reasons, or by order of the court.
5. Request a mentor from the Match Point Orange County mentoring program, which is the authorized aftercare component of the Protestant Chaplaincy Ministry.

6. Request that contact with a religious clergy member continue after release from custody. Probation will forward such requests to appropriate religious clergy.

D. Division Director or designee will:

1. Consider requests for any special religious program or one-time-only volunteer that are presented seven (7) days in advance. Any request for special group programs other than regularly scheduled religious services and/or studies provided by religious organizations that have entered into a Memorandum of Understanding with the Probation Department must be submitted for authorization by Probation administration. Any musical instruments, catered food items, **or** use of portable electronic devices must be approved by the Assistant Division Director or designee.
2. Process all requests for religious student internship that are submitted seven (7) days in advance of intern placement.
 - a. All religious interns must be referred to the Probation Background Unit and receive clearance prior to working with youth.
 - b. Religious interns shall not provide one-on-one religious counseling.
 - c. Religious interns must always be supervised by chaplains.
3. Ensure religious clergy are aware of any youths' requests for follow-up upon release from a facility (with parental consent).
4. If available, provide religious clergy from religious organizations that have entered into a Memorandum of Understanding with the Probation Department to regularly provide religious services and/or counseling:
 - a. An office.
 - b. Telephones for ministry business related to their work in the juvenile facility only.
 - c. Facility/county mailboxes for U.S. Mail and intra-facility religious/ministry correspondence only.
 - d. Storage space to collect and dispense religious materials.
 - e. Facility areas to conduct religious services for youth.
 - f. Parking cards and access cards for professional clergy and their staff (Juvenile Hall only).
 - g. ID cards for all religious VIP's (F057-8046 or 6301B).
 - h. Use of department duplication machines to reproduce religious materials for use in the facility.

REFERENCES:

Procedures:	1-2-102	Volunteers in Probation Program
	3-12-006	Special Diets
	3-5-004	Youth's Rights/Orientation
	3-5-001	Intake-Juvenile Hall
Policies:	E-8	Volunteers
	F-6	Religious Programs and Services at Probation Department Juvenile Institutions

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APPROVED BY: