

The Right Door for Hope, Recovery, and Wellness

Chapter Title Recipient Rights	Chapter # RR		Subject # 126.1
Subject Title <b>Treatment by Spiritual Means and Religious Freedom</b>	Adopted 04/2/99	Last Revised 2/26/14	Reviewed 09/05/06; 3/29/10; 2/26/14; 1/4/17

**PROCEDURE**

**Application**

This procedure shall apply to The Right Door for Hope, Recovery, and Wellness and all services operated by or under contract with it. This procedure shall serve as a guide to assure compliance with Board policy regarding Recipient Rights.

**Definition**

Treatment by spiritual means is a “spiritual discipline or school of thought that a recipient wishes to rely on to aid physical or mental recovery”.

- 1.0 Agency employees or independent contractors and their employees shall allow recipients to visit with religious representatives (ministers, pastors, priests, rabbis, etc.) as they so choose. In residential programs, such visits shall be allowed during regular visiting hours indicated in the program rules or during reasonable times.
- 2.0 Treatment by spiritual means shall be allowed on request by a recipient, guardian, or parent of a minor child.
- 3.0 Agency employees or independent contractors or their employees, who receive either a verbal or written request from a recipient, guardian, or legal representative of a minor for treatment by spiritual means or to worship shall:
  - 3.1 Document a verbal request in the record of the recipient;
  - 3.2 Include the written request in the record of the recipient; and
  - 3.3 Notify the program supervisor within twenty-four (24) hours (or the next business day) of the request, when the recipient is in a residential services program,

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- 4.0 If the recipient is a resident of a Residential Services Program, the Residential Program Supervisor shall:
  - 4.1 Assure that the recipient consents by using a written consent form if the request is made by the guardian or nearest relative and include the consent in the record of the recipient;
  - 4.2 Assist the recipient in meeting his/her request to worship; and
  - 4.3 Notify the CEO if the recipient, on spiritual grounds, refuses medication or other treatment.
  
- 5.0 The CEO shall:
  - 5.1 Seek court-ordered treatment when there is a refusal of medication or other treatment for a minor or an individual whose legal representative refuses, on spiritual grounds, to consent to treatment which is determined to be life-sustaining; and
  - 5.2 Notify the requesting person of the denial of a request and the reasons for denial. The requesting person shall be notified of the appeals process, should treatment by spiritual means be denied.
  
- 6.0 A recipient shall have the right to refuse medication if
  - 6.1 Spiritual treatment predates current allegations of mental illness or disability;
  - 6.2 There is no court order empowering guardian or facility to make those decisions; or
  - 6.3 The recipient is not imminently dangerous to self or others.

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- 7.0 A recipient may have contact with agencies providing treatment by spiritual means as is provided for contact with private mental health professionals.
- 8.0 Treatment by spiritual means does not include the right to:
  - 8.1 Use mechanical, chemical or organic compounds that are physically harmful;
  - 8.2 Engage in an activity that is prohibited by law;
  - 8.3 Engage in an activity that is harmful to self or others; or
  - 8.4 Engage in an activity that is inconsistent with court ordered custody or placement by person other than the recipient.

**References**

Administrative Rules: 330.7135  
 Administrative Rules: 330.7145

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Robert S. Lathers, Chief Executive Officer	Date		