



New Hampshire Division for Children, Youth and Families Policy Manual

2185 RELIGIOUS PROGRAM

Chapter: Sununu Youth Services Center

Section: Religious Programs

Approved:

Joseph E. Ribsam, Jr., DCYF Director

Policy Directive: **20-40**

Effective Date: **October 2020**

References Of Note

Federal Authority:

Statutes: [RSA 169-B](#), [RSA 621](#), and [RSA 621-A](#)

Administrative Rules:

Case Law:

This policy establishes the religious program for youth at the Sununu Youth Services Center.

Required Practices

Any deviations to the following information must be documented with Supervisory Approval.

- I. Pursuant RSA 169-B:33, no minor under the supervision of any state institution shall be denied the free exercise of the minor's own religion or the religion of the parents, whether living or dead, nor the liberty of worshipping God according thereto.
- II. SYSC takes a systematic approach to determine each youth's religious beliefs and practices through the following documentation:
 - A. The Youth Information Sheet (Form 1552) provided to SYSC by the youth's JPPO;
 - B. The SYSC Admissions Form (Form 2028) completed by the Admissions Officer during the intake assessment;
 - C. The Psychosocial Assessment (Form 2143) completed by the Clinician; and
 - D. The Spiritual Assessment (Form 2186) completed by the Chaplain.
- III. During the Spiritual Assessment, the Chaplain shall:
 - A. Identify a youth's religious or spiritual beliefs and practices;
 - B. Identify whether the youth wishes to be connected with a practitioner of their beliefs; and
 - C. If indicated by the youth, facilitate connection with a practitioner of the youth's religious beliefs, as appropriate.
- IV. SYSC religious programs are coordinated by the SYSC Chaplain.

- A. All youth shall have access to the SYSC Chaplain, as appropriate.
 - B. Religious services and programs shall be offered to all youth regardless of their religious beliefs.
 - C. Community resources may be utilized to provide religious services, including bringing someone into SYSC, or arranging for the youth to attend in the community.
- V. Youth will participate in spiritual awareness and growth activities on a voluntary basis.
- VI. The following spiritual awareness and growth activities are available to all youth at SYSC:
- A. Weekly Chapel Services;
 - B. Weekly Religious Study Groups;
 - C. Spiritual Counseling;
 - D. Opportunities to share request for prayer;
 - E. Spiritual ordinances when desired (e.g., Baptism, Communion); and
 - F. Community service opportunities (e.g., directly helping others in a soup kitchen, shelter).
- VII. Youth shall have the opportunity to participate in religious practices that are deemed essential by the faith's judicatory. This is limited only by documentation showing:
- A. Threat to the safety of persons involved in such activity; or
 - B. The activity itself disrupts the order in the facility.

Applicable Forms	
Form	Title
1552	Child/Youth Information Sheet
2028	SYSC Admissions Form
2143	Psychosocial Assessment
2186	Spiritual Assessment

Glossary and Document Specific Definitions

A - B C - D E - F G - I J - L M - N O - Q R - S T - V W - Z

For the Purpose of this Document:

“Spiritual Counseling” means interaction between the chaplain and youth focused upon the spiritual beliefs of the youth and how those spiritual beliefs inform, guide, and enrich a youth’s experiences, actions, and life. This term is distinct from clinical counseling or therapy.

Document Change Log			
PD	Modification Made	Approved	Date