

## Faith-Based Program

### 965.1 PURPOSE AND SCOPE

The purpose is to establish and implement written policy and procedures for faith-based services and/or faith-based counseling for youth in juvenile facilities. This policy applies to all juvenile facility staff.

### 965.2 AUTHORITY AND REFERENCES

- Board of State and Community Corrections Title 15 § 1372.

### 965.3 POLICY

All youth in juvenile facilities shall have access to religious services and/or religious counseling at least once each week.

### 965.4 REQUESTS FOR FAITH-BASED SERVICES/COUNSELING

The Riverside County Probation Department assumes a neutral stance with regard to faith-based services and faith-based counseling. All requests for faith-based services, counseling, and diets shall be initiated by the youth.

All juvenile facilities shall accommodate youth's requests for faith-based services, counseling, and diets.

During the admittance process, all youth shall be advised of their rights to indicate their faith-based preference, and their desire for faith-based services and/or faith-based counseling. Youth shall be given the opportunity to request faith-based services and/or faith-based counseling at any time while detained at a juvenile facility by completing a Right to Faith-Based Services and/or Faith-Based Counseling form (attachment) and submit it to the unit supervising probation officer (SPO).

### 965.5 ACCESS TO FAITH-BASED SERVICES/COUNSELING

All juvenile facilities shall provide youth access to faith-based services and/or faith-based counseling at least once each week. Attendance shall be voluntary, with no pressure or coercion by peers or staff to participate. Youth shall be allowed to participate in an activity outside of their room if they elect not to participate in faith-based programs.

Youth on disciplinary status shall not be denied faith-based services and/or faith-based counseling. However, special arrangements may be required for youth that present a safety and security risk.

### 965.6 STAFF RESPONSIBILITIES

Staff shall be present at all faith-based services in a non-participating capacity for custodial purposes only. Staff are responsible for ensuring that faith-based representatives adhere to all juvenile facility rules and that youth retain their right to privacy and confidentiality.

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### **965.7 SPO RESPONSIBILITIES**

In the event a youth requests faith-based services, the unit SPO shall attempt to schedule such services. If the youth requests counsel from a specific faith-based representative, efforts shall be made to accommodate the request.

### **965.8 FAITH-BASED REPRESENTATIVES**

Faith-based representatives who provide faith-based services and/or counseling to youth shall be certified clergy, ordained for faith-based duties by their church or faith-based organization.

### **965.9 FAITH-BASED PROGRAMS**

Faith-based representatives may not be provided for every faith.

Faith-based literature is permitted unless it presents a demonstrable security risk. The right to attend faith-based services and/or counseling may be prohibited when the safety and security of the juvenile facility is threatened.

The freedom of faith can never constitute the freedom to interfere with the peaceful rights of others, or the freedom to disregard the rules of the juvenile facility.

#### **965.9.1 FAITH-BASED DIETS**

Faith-based diets shall be made available for youth. The food service supervisor shall coordinate the menu specifications with a dietician or menu development database.

Date last reviewed: 04/04/2023

Date(s) revised: 04/04/2023; 10/30/2019; 07/18/2016; 05/17/2016; and 03/07/2016.

Created: 03/01/2000

Attachments:

[1. Right to Faith-Based Services and/or Faith-Based Counseling](#)