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**Notes and
References**

Religious Services

I. Introduction

All religious programs are voluntary and any youth who chooses not to participate will be allowed to participate in an activity outside of their room. Locking youth down due to non-participation is not an option.

- A. Ministers, Clergy and church volunteers of various denominations may conduct services for youth. Individual and group meetings are facilitated.
- B. Religious services are held at least once per week.
- C. Services must be conducted in such a manner that security is assured.
- D. Religious practices that do not jeopardize the security of the institution will be honored (i.e., special diets, wearing of yarmulke, rosary beads, etc.).
- E. Youth posing a significant risk to the security of the facility may be withheld from group activities and provided the opportunity to practice his/her religious beliefs in a no-contact room or at intake.
- F. Under no circumstance are staff to communicate demeaning, offensive or slanderous comments to youth regarding their religious beliefs, participation or practices.

NOTE: Prior to a religious program entering the units, unit staff will advise youth that a voluntary religious program will be held. Non-participating youth are to be given the option of reading, writing, or drawing quietly on the periphery of the program (i.e., at tables in the dayroom area) during the program. Youth may be permitted to read/rest in their rooms during the program without sanction/penalty. This procedure can be accomplished with two staff in the unit. Non-participating youth will be admonished by staff that any disruptive behavior during the program can result in disciplinary sanctions.

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