





San Francisco Juvenile Probation Department

Juvenile Hall Policy and Procedures Manual

Chapter 8 - Programs

Policy Number:	8.10
Policy Name:	Religious Programming
Authority:	Title 15, 1372, 1356
Replaces:	18.9 Religious Programs (09/29/2014)
Effective Date:	January 1, 2019
Revision Date:	October 18, 2018
Related Policies and Procedures:	6.02 - Menus and Special Diets 8.15 - Volunteers
Director of Juvenile Hall:	Bobby Uppal 
Chief Probation Officer:	Katherine Weinstein Miller 

I. POLICY

The Director of Juvenile Hall or designee shall provide access to religious services and/or religious counseling at least once a week. Attendance shall be voluntary, and youth shall never be penalized for electing not to participate in religious activities. All youth shall be allowed to participate in an activity outside of their room if he or she elects not to participate in religious programs. Youth may choose to participate in any religious programming provided by Juvenile Hall if he or she engages respectfully with the program, facilitators, and other participating youth. Religious programs shall be provided for:

- A. Opportunity for religious services and practices.
- B. Availability of clergy.
- C. Availability of religious diets.

Special religious needs shall be honored unless an unpreventable safety or security risk is present.

II. PURPOSE

Access to religious programming and the ability of youth to sustain a consistent and meaningful religious practice may be important to youth and families served by Juvenile Hall and may be a useful part of a youth's personal growth. Department staff and leadership may cultivate this important and rehabilitative component of youth programming by ensuring a diversity of meaningful religious programs for youth. Juvenile Hall staff shall also respect that some youth may not want to participate in religious programming and shall respect this choice. Respecting a youth's choice not to participate in religious programming includes providing that youth with meaningful recreational and programming alternatives.

The Juvenile Hall administration and staff are encouraged to take advantage of the religious resources in the community and provide a full array of religious programming however it is also imperative to ensure any involved personnel who provide programming to youth are certified or approved by their religious

organization and the standards required for volunteers and providers serving youth in Juvenile Hall.

III. PROCEDURE

A. Determining Needed Religious Programs

- i. The Director of Juvenile Hall or designee shall determine needed religious programs and services by periodically soliciting input from youth currently residing in the facility while developing and organizing programming to meet their expressed needs.
- ii. Religious Programs shall, at a minimum, provide for:
 - a. An opportunity for religious services for youth
 - b. Availability of clergy for youth
 - c. Availability of religious diets for youth

B. Organizing Religious Programming

- i. The Director of Juvenile Hall or designee shall establish relationships with local religious and volunteer organizations that can support youth and shall be aware of available local resources for youth and families.
- ii. Religious services, counseling, and programming shall be provided at least once a week and be reflected on the Daily Unit Activity Schedule. [Title 15, 1372]

C. Providing Religious Services and Programming

- i. Youth participation in religious programming of any kind shall be voluntary. [Title 15, 1372]

- ii. Youth who choose not to participate in religious programming shall be allowed to participate in another form of authorized activities outside of his or her assigned room. [Title 15, 1372]
- iii. Youth may participate in any or all religious programs of their choosing, so long as they engage with the program and other youth participants in a respectful manner.
- iv. Youth on room confinement shall not be denied access to religious activities unless the youth is an imminent risk to themselves, youth, staff, or others.
- v. The Director of Juvenile Hall or designee shall ensure that a comfortable and respectful atmosphere is provided for services.
- vi. The Director of Juvenile Hall or designee shall ensure Juvenile Hall provides the space and equipment needed to conduct and administer religious programs.
- vii. Juvenile Hall staff shall assist youth in accessing counseling with clergy of their chosen faith. [Title 15, 1356, 1372]

The Director of Juvenile Hall or designee shall solicit youth input on religious programming quarterly while planning future services and programs accordingly.

D. Working with Volunteer and Religious Groups

- i. The Director of Juvenile Hall or designee shall screen religious programming practitioners according to the volunteer screening process prior to establishing a relationship with Juvenile Hall. (Policy 8.15 – Volunteers)

The Director of Juvenile Hall or designee in conjunction with the Chief Probation Officer or designee shall approve donations of equipment or materials for use in religious programs.

E. Special Needs Pertaining to Religious Practice

- i. Youth shall have access to religious publications and texts of their choosing. Religious literature is permitted unless it represents a demonstrable risk to safety and security.

 - a. All religious material is subject to review by the Director of Juvenile Hall or designee before entering the facility.
 - b. Arrangements may be made by the Director of Juvenile Hall or designee for youth to obtain personal copies of religious books and periodicals.
- ii. Juvenile Hall will make all possible efforts to provide religious diets, as feasible, when requested. Juvenile Hall will, whenever feasible, cooperate with parents/legal guardians in the provision of religious diets such as kosher.
- iii. When appropriate, religious apparel may be approved or provided.

 - a. When religious apparel is not in use, it shall be stored in the youth's personal property.
 - b. Religious ornaments may also be worn if they do not interfere with the safety and orderly conduct of the facility.
 - c. When no threat is posed or other reasons for denying access to such ornamentation or

apparel, Juvenile Hall staff shall exercise discretion in favor of the youth's expression.

- d. Juvenile Hall staff shall notify the Officer of the Day and document any concerns and/or reasoning for denying a youth access to religious apparel or ornamentation.