

Chapter: **RECIPIENT RIGHTS**
Title: **FREEDOM OF WORSHIP AND RELIGIOUS BELIEF**

Prior Approval Date: 08/29/2012
Current Approval Date: 06/06/2025

Proposed by: Traci Smith 06/06/2025
Chief Executive Officer Date

Approved by: Al Lorenzo 06/06/2025
County Executive Office Date

I. ABSTRACT

This policy establishes the standards of Macomb County Community Mental Health (MCCMH), an official agency of the County of Macomb, for ensuring that recipients of care in MCCMH residential settings have the opportunity to exercise freedom of worship and their religious beliefs.

II. APPLICATION

This policy shall apply to all MCCMH directly-operated and contracted network providers and Certified Community Behavioral Health Clinics (CCBHC) in Macomb County.

III. POLICY

It is the policy of MCCMH that:

- A. Providers of supervised residential care shall recognize and assist recipients in the free exercise of their right of religious belief and worship.
- B. Residents shall not be required or coerced to participate in any religious observance.
- C. Providers of supervised residential care shall provide reasonable, adequate, and appropriate space for the performance of religious services and practices.
- D. Residents shall be informed of religious services available through community resources.
- E. Minors shall be afforded the opportunity to participate in religious services and other religious activities in accordance with their individual and family preferences.
- F. When requested, and to the extent feasible, providers of residential care shall assist residents in locating and gaining access to religious services suited to their individual beliefs.

IV. DEFINITIONS

None.

V. STANDARDS

- A. Community religious representatives (ministers, pastors, priests, rabbis etc.) shall be allowed to visit their parishioners in the residential setting.
- B. Providers of supervised residential care shall ensure that residents are provided with an opportunity for worship.
- C. Clergymen shall be permitted to visit only their own parishioners in supervised residential settings unless other residents, their parents if the recipients are minors, or their guardians specifically request visits by those clergymen.
- D. A resident shall be permitted the observation of dietary practices in keeping with the religious requirements of his/her faith group.
- E. A resident shall be permitted to observe religious holidays and holy days in keeping with the religious requirements of his/her faith group.
- F. A resident shall not be denied religious participation as a means of punishment. If a resident is extremely disruptive during religious services, participation may be temporarily limited or withheld, providing current documentation for the limitation is entered in the clinical record and approved by the Behavior Treatment Plan Review Committee.

VI. PROCEDURES

None.

VII. REFERENCES / LEGAL AUTHORITY

- A. United States Constitution, First Amendment.
- B. Michigan Constitution of 1963, Article 1, Section 4
- C. MCL 330.1702
- D. MCL 330.1704
- E. MDHHS Administrative Rules, R 330.7135
- F. MCCMH MCO Policy 8-008, "Behavior Treatment Plans"

VIII. EXHIBITS

None.