

DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES

EFFECTIVE DATE: 1 November 1977

DATE ISSUED: 15 October 1977

SUBJECT: Religious Proselytizing of
Patients and Residents

This Administrative Order establishes policies and procedures for the protection of the rights and religious freedom of patients and residents.

I. GENERAL POLICIES

- A. The rights and religious freedom of patients and residents shall not be abridged either by the imposition of a particular religion or by denial of an individual's freedom to practice a chosen religion.
- B. Patient and resident participation in religious activities shall be on a voluntary basis.
- C. All religious groups, prior to the provision of religious activities, shall notify the Office of the Institutional Chaplain for coordination and scheduling of such activities. Where there is no Institutional Chaplain, groups desiring to provide religious activities shall notify the Chief Executive Officer of the institution.
- D. Complaints regarding proselytizing of patients and residents shall be reported through the Institutional Chaplain or the Chief Executive Officer to the Office of Special Services.
- E. Competent individuals shall not be prevented from voluntarily changing religious preferences while under the jurisdiction of the Department.

Ann Klein
Commissioner