

Title:	3.6.06, Treatment by Spiritual Means		
Subject:	Recipient Rights		
Section:	Clinical		
Related Policies:	3.6.06, Treatment by Spiritual Means		
Policy: <input type="checkbox"/>	Issued by:	Effective Date:	Applies to:
Procedure: X	Director of Quality , Customer Service and Recipient Rights	10/13/89	X All CMHA-CEI staff X Contract Providers
Page: 1 of 2	Approved by:	Review Date:	<input type="checkbox"/> Other:
	N/A	8/31/16	

- I. **Purpose:** To ensure that recipients of mental health services are permitted treatment by spiritual means.
- II. **Procedures:**
- A. Upon the request of the recipient, guardian, or parent of a minor recipient, the service provider shall allow opportunity for the recipient to receive treatment by spiritual means in the same manner as recipients are permitted to see private mental health professionals.
 - B. Staff shall take no position to encourage or discourage a recipient's participation in treatment by spiritual means. Reasonable attempts may be made to assist the recipient in obtaining appropriate referrals.
 - C. Requests for printed, recorded, or visual material essential or related to treatment by spiritual means, and to a symbolic object of similar significance shall be honored and made available at the recipient's expense.
 - D. If medication or other treatment for a minor is refused by the recipient's parents, the service provider shall notify the staff person responsible for coordination of services for the recipient.
 1. The circumstances shall be brought to the attention of the Program Director. The Program Director shall assess any potential danger to the child or ward and, if determined appropriate,
 2. Shall petition the court to assure that the rights of the child or ward are protected.
 - E. If a parent or guardian refuses to consent to treatment for children or wards based on spiritual grounds, the situation shall be brought to the attention of the Program Director.
 1. The Program Director shall assess any potential danger to the child or ward and, if determined appropriate,
 2. Shall petition the court to assure that the rights of the recipient are protected.
 - F. If the service provider suspects that the requested treatment by spiritual means includes any of the prohibited activities identified in III.C, below, the provider shall deny the request for treatment by spiritual means and notify the staff person responsible for coordination of the recipient's service.
 - G. The recipient, empowered guardian, or parent of a minor who requested treatment by spiritual means, shall be notified, in writing, of a denial of a request for treatment by spiritual means, and the reasons for a denial.
 - H. The recipient, empowered guardian, or parent of a minor who requested treatment by spiritual means, who is denied, may make a request for review to the clinician responsible for coordination of the treatment plan. The review shall be completed within

30 days by pertinent members of the treatment team. If dissatisfied with the outcome of that clinical review, the recipient, empowered guardian, or parent of a minor may appeal the denial through the Appeals Process, (see policy and procedure on Appeals and Grievances, 3.6.17).

III. Definitions:

- A. Treatment by spiritual means: a spiritual discipline or school of thought upon which a recipient wishes to rely on to aid, comfort, help, or assist in either his/her physical or mental recovery.
- B. Treatment by spiritual means includes the right of the recipient, empowered guardian, or parent of a minor recipient to refuse medication or other treatment on spiritual grounds that predate the current allegations of mental illness or disability, but does not extend to circumstances where either of the following apply:
 - 1. A guardian or the provider has been empowered by a court to consent to or provide treatment and has done so.
 - 2. A recipient poses harm to himself or herself or others and treatment is essential to prevent physical injury.
- C. Treatment by spiritual means does not include the right to any of the following:
 - 1. To use mechanical devices or chemical or organic compounds that are physically harmful.
 - 2. To engage in activity prohibited by law.
 - 3. To engage in activity that physically harms the recipient or others.
 - 4. To engage in activity that is inconsistent with court-ordered custody or voluntary placement by a person other than the recipient.
 - 5. To engage in activities which interfere with the rights of other consumers receiving services from the program.

IV. Monitor and Review:

This procedure is reviewed annually by the Director of Quality, Customer Service and Recipient Rights. This procedure is monitored by accrediting bodies and regulatory agencies as applicable.

V. References:

- A. 1974 PA 258, Michigan’s Mental Health Code, as amended
330.1752, Policies and procedures
- B. MDHHS Administrative Rules R 330.7135, Treatment by spiritual means
- C. CMHA CEI Policy and Procedure 3.6.17, Appeals and Grievances

VI. Review Log

Review Date	Reviewed By	Changes (if any)
12/17/02, 6/1/04, 5/14/05, 1/31/07, 5/26/10, 2/6/152, 3/10/13	----	-----
8/31/16	Recipient Rights Officer, QI Specialist	Put in new format.

VII. Attachments None.