



PRESIDENT'S FAMILY JUSTICE CENTER INITIATIVE

CHAPLAINCY CODE OF ETHICS PROTOTYPE

Family Justice Center Chaplains and Chaplain Volunteers are members of a Spiritual Care Team. Team members, whether they are co-located, paid or volunteers and whether they are lay or ordained, are available for ministry to all clients and staff in the Family Justice Center (FJC) in which they serve.

Such ministry and outreach will be extended to all regardless of race, national or ethnic origin, age, gender, sexual orientation, marital or parental status, handicap, class, education or source of income.

The following are areas in which team members are available to assist clients and staff:

1. Identification of the person's spiritual resources.
2. Clarification of their ethical standards and guidance for behavior in harmony with their spiritual values.
3. Guidance in deepening their sense of personal worth.
4. Enhancement of their relationship to their deity, to their family, friends and community.
5. Support and encouragement in the struggle to be free from intimate partner violence.

PRINCIPLE I PERSONAL CONDUCT AND ETHICS

Spiritual caregivers are grounded in communities of faith and informed by professional training and supervision. They are called to nurture their personal health of mind, body

and spirit and be responsible for their personal and professional conduct as they grow in their respect for all human beings. As spiritual caregivers, they:

- affirm the dignity and value of each individual
- respect the right of each faith group to hold its values and traditions
- advocate for professional accountability that protects the public and advances their ministry
- respect the cultural, ethnic, gender, racial, sexual orientation, educational, financial and religious diversity of other professionals and volunteers and those whom they serve

All team members are spiritual caregivers who participate in ministry to victims of domestic violence and to the FJC staff members. All team members uphold the highest personal conduct and are responsible for maintaining appropriate professional boundaries with all colleagues, co-workers and clients.

PRINCIPLE II **PROFESSIONAL PRACTICES**

All team members practice their ministry task as pastoral care providers through various religious activities, including prayer, meditation, and ritual.

Team members function as interfaith spiritual care providers within the FJC and do not undertake roles that are contrary to that of a pastoral care provider who provides counsel and facilitates religious meditation.

All team members make use of their skills and training to maintain the integrity and enhance the image of religious ministry in the FJC setting.

PRINCIPLE III **CONFIDENTIALITY**

Confidentiality is respected by all team members. Oral and written communication is received with the expectation that such remains confidential and is not divulged to others. An exception may be made where the content of such communication reveals danger to staff or clients and their children and the client is informed of the need for disclosure. The FJC protocol on the mandatory reporting of child abuse, when applicable, will be followed by all team members.

Religious faiths hold that confidentiality by their clergy or those with parallel designation is a sacred trust. The seal of the sacrament of confession and parallel requirements by all faith groups in matters of confidentiality are recognized and respected.

PRINCIPLE IV
PROFESSIONAL/LAY DEVELOPMENT

Team members continue professional or lay ministry development in personal growth, education, spirituality and understanding of domestic violence issues. This development includes participation in meetings and training opportunities offered by the US Department of Justice Technical Assistance provider for FJC chaplaincy programs.

PRINCIPLE V
FAITH GROUP RELATIONSHIPS

Team members meet with and maintain requirements set by their particular faith groups. Members maintain ties with their religious faith groups for purposes of support, vocational identity, accountability, evaluation, and fellowship.

PRINCIPLE VI
INTERDISCIPLINARY RELATIONSHIPS

No one can respond to domestic violence effectively alone. Team members relate to and cooperate with other professions in their work environment at the FJC. The welfare of an individual may be enriched and enhanced by consultations and referrals by team members to professionals from other disciplines. Consultations will occur only when the client's confidentiality can be honored.

PRINCIPLE VII
COMPETENCY

Team members are responsible for effective spiritual support ministry within the FJC they serve.

Team members exercise their ministry without influencing clients or staff to change their religious preference or faith and conduct their ministry without communicating derogatory attitudes toward other faiths.

As FJCs are federally supported, team members agree to abide by the First Amendment of the U.S. Constitution in its Establishment and Free Exercise clauses. Team members provide spiritual support to enable the client to have free exercise of her/his religious faith. Team members also conduct themselves so that in no way do they create an environment where any religion is established or preferred at the FJC.

Team members process all client requests promptly, in order of urgency and without bias.

Team members balance administrative duties with direct ministry through individual or group activities, which may include religious services, spiritual activities, and pastoral counseling.

PRINCIPLE VIII
RESPONSIBILITY

Team members are primarily involved in matters directly related to the religious portion of the client's needs when a client accesses a FJC.

Team members maintain the highest ethical standards of behavior and avoid any social, personal, financial, or other situation that might discredit their ministry or the FJC.

The FJC Chaplaincy Service Managers, or equivalent, are responsible for planning, coordinating, and supervising all team members and all spiritual support activities that occur at a FJC.

All team members are responsible for upholding this code of ethics and any other policies that are established at their respective FJC. Team members who violate this code and other FJC policies shall be subject to disciplinary action, including dismissal, based on the policies and procedures of their respective FJC.

Prototype modeled on the American Correctional Chaplains Association Code of Ethics, the Society of Professional Chaplain's Common Code of Ethics, and the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs Health Care Chaplaincy guidelines.