

Chapter: Rules for State-Operated Programs and Facilities Subchapter: Program Services Division: Basic Services Title: Moral Values, Worship, and Religious Education ACA: 4-JCF-5F-01, 5F-02, 5F-03, 5F-04, 5F-05, 5F-06, 5F-07	Effective Date: 7/15/14 Page: 1 of 1 Replaces: GAP.380.9121, 11/1/11
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RULE

(a) **Purpose.**

The purpose of this rule is to provide youth with the opportunity to participate in worship and religious education and to develop and internalize a set of personal moral and spiritual values.

(b) **General Provisions.**

- (1) The Texas Juvenile Justice Department (TJJD) determines the religious preference of each youth admitted to TJJD. If a youth is under age 18, TJJD contacts the youth's parent/guardian to verify the youth's religious preference. If there is a disagreement regarding the religious preference for a youth under age 18, the religious preference will be established by the parent/guardian. If TJJD is unable to contact the parent/guardian after due diligence, TJJD will honor the youth's requested religious preference.
- (2) TJJD provides youth the opportunity to participate in religious education programs, services, and counseling.
- (3) Participation in religious education programs, services, and counseling is voluntary.
- (4) Arbitrary and discriminatory restrictions of religious freedoms are prohibited.
- (5) High restriction and medium restriction facilities operated by or under contract with TJJD must provide for reasonable access to religious education programs, services, and counseling.
- (6) Participation in religious education programs, services, and counseling may be limited only when documentation indicates a threat to the safety of persons involved or the activity disrupts order in the facility.
- (7) Youth in TJJD-operated facilities may request that a specific religious practice or item be made available to him/her. The request is subject to an assessment, accommodation, and approval process.
- (8) TJJD provides access to personal clergy for a youth's faith group in accordance with [§380.9317](#) of this title.
- (9) TJJD encourages the participation of volunteer religious groups and individuals in its religious services and programs.

See [INS Chapter 81](#) for implementation procedures.