

Religious & Spiritual Beliefs

SUMMIT COUNTY CHILDREN SERVICES

ORC: 5103.02 OAC: 5101:2-5-16, 5101:2-7-11 USC: N/A CFR: N/A	ORIGINAL: 1/07 REVISIONS: 08/06; 12/08; 05/12/2016, 12/1/16 RELATED FORM(S): RELATED PROCEDURE/POLICY(IES):
---	--

- | | |
|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Administrative
<input type="checkbox"/> Fiscal
<input type="checkbox"/> Human Resources
<input type="checkbox"/> Information Technology | <input type="checkbox"/> Legal
<input type="checkbox"/> Safety & Security
<input type="checkbox"/> Social Services - All Departments
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Social Services - Foster & Adoption |
|---|---|

All Staff
 Bargaining Unit
 Non-Bargaining
 Management

POLICY:

Summit County Children Services (SCCS) recognizes the right of children in the custody of SCCS to follow their own beliefs in matters of religion and spirituality. SCCS facilitates and provides all appropriate opportunities for the free expression, practice and observance of religious and spiritual beliefs held by persons served. SCCS maintains discretion in determining what constitutes reasonable access, practice and expression of a client's religious or spiritual belief.

PROCEDURE:

SCCS shall demonstrate consideration for and sensitivity to the religious background of a child in out-of-home care and of families receiving agency services.

SCCS shall provide opportunities for children in custody to practice religious beliefs and faith, including dietary restrictions. Caregivers may encourage children to participate in religious activities, but children shall not be coerced to do so. A caregiver must permit a child in the custody of SCCS to practice the chosen religious faith of the child or his or her parents, unless it is determined and documented in the child's case plan by SCCS that it is not in the child's best interest.

A child in the custody of SCCS shall not be submitted to any religious procedures without prior consent of the child according to their age and functioning level and prior approval of the parent, guardian or custodian.

SCCS shall not require a child in custody to receive non-emergency medical treatment that conflicts with the religious tenets or practices of the religion of the child or parent without the specific written consent of the parent, guardian or custodian.

When a child in custody requires emergency medical treatment and such treatment conflicts with the religious tenets or practices of the child, parent, guardian or custodian, the caregiver shall immediately transport or arrange for the transportation of the child to a medical facility and contact SCCS. In a life threatening situation SCCS will make decisions regarding medical treatment based on the best interest of the child.