



Policy Name: <p style="text-align: center;">ACCOMMODATION OF INDIGENOUS SPIRITUALITY</p>	Policy Number: <p style="text-align: center;">0707</p>
Approved By: <p style="text-align: center;">Executive Team</p>	Effective Date: <p style="text-align: center;">AUGUST 5, 2022</p>
Reason for Revision: <i>Click on item below and select item from list.</i> <p style="text-align: center;">CONTENT- Enter BELOW Reason for change Ex: Combined Policy ## and ##.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">New policy: Management of Indigenous Spirituality and Ceremonies</p>	Date Revised: <p style="text-align: center;"><i>Click here to enter a date.</i></p> Next Date for Review: <p style="text-align: center;">August 5, 2025</p>
Section: <p style="text-align: center;">Section 07 - Pastoral Care - Administration</p>	Page No: <p style="text-align: center;">Page 1 of 2</p>

Policy

Accommodation and facilitation for Indigenous Spirituality and Ceremonies reflect The Agape Hospice mission and values by providing Indigenous ways of healing alongside the care being received at the hospice.

POLICY ELEMENTS

The purpose of this policy is to:

- Provide culturally and spiritually appropriate care to residents and their families that request Indigenous Ceremonies.
- Facilitate the process for ceremonies for patients and staff.

This policy sets out guidelines to assist spiritual care staff in responding to requests for Indigenous Ceremonies taking into consideration the well-being of all residents, families, friends and staff within the hospice environment.

Although various ceremonies may be utilized, the most common request may be for a Smudging Ceremony.

Procedure

1. Staff receiving a request will contact the chaplain to coordinate the arrangements for an Indigenous Ceremony.
2. The chaplain will meet with the resident or family representative to confirm their request for Indigenous Ceremony and gather pertinent information.
3. The chaplain will consult with the medical team members to identify any medical precautions which may need to be given consideration.



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4. To respect the protocols prior to any Indigenous Ceremony, the chaplain will consult with an Elder or ask the resident/family member what protocols they wish to follow.
5. It is preferred that a family member or elder performs the ceremony but if they are unavailable and/or unable to do so, the chaplain will assist upon request.
6. Medicine Bundles if required will be a resource which the family will be asked to provide. A Medicine Bundle is a collection of sacred items used for traditional Indigenous Ceremonies. These include items such as; Sacred medicines (tobacco sage, sweet grass, cedar), shell, feather, cloth and matches.
7. Designated spaces for Ceremonies include; in the summer, a defined space outside the building, the resident's room, or another space in the building which can be safely utilized.
 - Any ceremonies involving smoke/flame will be accommodated after the necessary steps are taken to properly manage the fire alarms (contact fire dept.) and ventilation systems.
 - Maintenance staff will be contacted to ensure these steps can be arranged. The time and place of the ceremony must be defined and adhered to in order for the ceremony to take place.
8. All possible steps will be taken to ensure the ceremony is meaningful and meets the needs of the resident and those in attendance.