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| Policy Name: SPIRITUALITY ISSUES: STAFF RESPONSE TO RESIDENTS AND FAMILIES | Policy Number: 0304 |
| Approved By: Executive Team | Effective Date: September 2, 1996 |
| Reason for Revision: <i>Click on item below and select item from list.</i> CONTENT- Enter BELOW Reason for change Ex: Combined Policy ## and ##. Reviewed. No changes. | Date Revised: August 3, 2022 |
| Section: Section 03 - Psychological, Social and Spiritual Support | Next Date for Review: August 3, 2025 |
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Policy

The goal of Spiritual Care is to facilitate the fulfillment of the spiritual needs of residents and families through Agapé's Spiritual Care Coordinator and chaplains. (Responding to spiritual needs of residents and family members is at the individual discretion of other staff members.)

Procedure

1. The rights and dignity of a resident and/or family member supersede the needs and desires of staff and are to be respected as such.
2. When a spiritual need or request comes from a resident and/or family member to a staff member, the following applies:
 - a. If staff member is comfortable with the situation, they may respond, keeping in mind:
 - * Whose need is to be met? * Not to make assumptions
 - * To always ask permission from resident or family member:
 - * To speak/pray/read scriptures; as aligned with their request .

When a staff member responds to a spiritual need, they are required to inform the Spiritual Care Coordinator or one of the chaplains.

- b. If staff member is **NOT** comfortable in responding, they may ask resident or family member from whom THEY would prefer to receive help: from their own faith leadership, or one of Agapé's chaplains.
- c. The staff member will then ask one of the chaplains for support; if not available, the staff member will leave a note for follow up.
- d. If staff member assesses that a resident or family member has a spiritual need, but no request has come, they are requested to:
 - * ASK the resident/family member if assessment is correct;
 - * If not, to continue to care for resident or family as usual
 - * If yes, and the staff member feels comfortable in proceeding, to do so following the guideline listed in 2a.
 - * Referrals from staff members to the Spiritual & Religious Care Department are always welcomed.