

**CORPORATE POLICY, STANDARDS and PROCEDURE**

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<b><u>POLICY TITLE</u></b> SACRED SPACE		<b><u>NUMBER</u></b> TBA
<b><u>AUTHORIZATION</u></b> President and Chief Executive Officer	<b><u>DATE APPROVED</u></b> April 2007	<b><u>CURRENT VERSION</u></b> <b><u>DATE</u></b> April 2014

**DATE(S) REVISED / REVIEWED SUMMARY**

<b>Version</b>	<b>Date</b>	<b>Comments / Changes</b>
1.0	April 2007	Initial Policy
2.0	April 2014	Review Complete

**INTENT / PURPOSE**

Fraser Health recognizes that it would be ideal to have sacred space available to all patients, residents, clients and staff at each site.

**POLICY**

**Purpose:**

1. The purpose of the sacred space is to provide a place of solitude for all patients, residents, clients, family, friends, staff and volunteers of Fraser Health.
2. The sacred space is to be used for reflection, contemplation, prayer and meditation.
3. The sacred space is to be a place of peace and tranquility.

**Use:**

1. The sacred space is to be open and accessible 24 hours a day, seven days a week.
2. The sacred space is open to persons of all faiths, spiritualities and cultural traditions. The sacred space is also open to persons of no specific tradition and is to be a mutually welcoming and inclusive space.

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3. The sacred space may be used for formal or specialized religious ceremonies, rites or rituals as deemed supportive of client or staff need. In these circumstances, a health care professional should be involved to support the process.

**Venue:**

1. All sacred space locations within Fraser Health should be easily accessible to all.
2. All sacred space should be located in a prominent/main area of the facility.
3. Location of the sacred space should be included on all facility maps and have clear directional signage.

**Essential Components:**

1. The décor of the sacred space must allow for interpretation through the eyes and beliefs system of the viewer. Therefore, the space should maintain a neutral décor and neutrality in religious detail.
2. The space should provide freedom to pray, perform ritual or meditate. All furnishings should be moveable as some faiths are required to pray facing a specific direction (e.g. Islam, Mecca, etc.).
3. Art work should be inspiring to all spiritual and faith groups. Scenes from nature are recommended. Fountains are also important to many in times of spiritual contemplation.
4. Furnishings should be kept to a minimum and be attractive and comfortable.
5. Lamp light or soft lighting is recommended in contrast to the use of fluorescent lighting.
6. A simple Altar or Table should be in the room.
7. A cabinet should be included which would contain sacred writings such as The Bible, The Torah and The Koran, etc. All sacred writings supplied are to remain in the sacred space

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at all times. Other religious materials such as tracts, pamphlets and brochures are not to be kept or displayed in the sacred space.

8. Easy access should also be given to elements such as Muslim prayer mats, Christian crosses/crucifixes and other various faith accoutrements that are representative of the community at large.
9. A piano keyboard or organ and stereo system may also be included in the design of the room.
10. Consideration should be given to an anteroom for the removal of shoes or ceremonial washing before worship.

**DEFINITIONS**

This policy refers to all designated spaces formally known as "The Chapel" now to be referred to as "Sacred Space".

**PROCEDURE**

1. The Director of Site Operations is responsible for overseeing the use of the sacred space.
2. The sacred space is to be regarded as a holy place and as such is not to be a place where meetings, seminars or workshops are held.
3. The sacred space at no time is to be used as a break room or a place to "hang out".
4. Food and drink are not permitted in the sacred space at any time.