



**STATE OF WASHINGTON**  
**DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL AND HEALTH SERVICES**  
**REHABILITATION ADMINISTRATION**  
14<sup>TH</sup> & Jefferson ~ PO Box 45720 • Olympia WA • 98504-5720  
(360) 902-8499 • FAX (360) 902-8108

November 5, 2018

Dear Tribal Leaders,

Dear Tribal Leader,

We are reaching out to you on a matter of great importance for which we are respectfully requesting your or your delegate's time and partnership. We recently met with the American Civil Liberties Union (ACLU), Gabe Galanda of Galanda Broadman, PLLC, and two youth with current and former experience in Juvenile Rehabilitation (JR) regarding their concerns about full access to tribal religious practices while in JR institutions. During this conversation, we agreed to work with the ACLU and Gabe Galanda to enhance our current policy so that it fully reflects our commitment to provide youth with their constitutionally protected right to believe, express, and exercise the religion of their choice while incarcerated. The U.S. Constitution First Amendment's Free Exercise Clause and the Religious Land Use and Institutionalized Persons Act (RLUIPA) establishes these rights. Youth of all religions have this expressed right and because of our unique partnership and government-to-government relationship with Tribes, we would like to invite you to join us in a workgroup to develop this policy.

Many people find meaning, comfort, hope, goodness and connections to family and community through their religious practice, beliefs and/or community of faith. For youth in our care, we must promote this ability to access religious services without limiting them by levels or behavior unless they pose an imminent safety or security concern. In fact, participation in religious activities is more likely to promote better behavior than it is to perpetuate negative ones. Each youth is an individual who needs us to meet them where they are at – including with their spiritual needs.

With this in mind, I sent a memo to all JR residential staff to explicitly outline the expectation that all JR youth will have access to religious services. This memo will serve as the interim directive until the revised policy is in place. Access to religious services may only be limited when the limitation is the least restrictive method available to achieve compelling interest, for example, if the requested religious activity presents an imminent safety or security concern and limiting a youth's access is the least restrictive way to ensure the safety and security of JR facilities.

If you or a delegate from your Tribe would like to join us in this workgroup, please notify my Executive Secretary, Diana Blair at 360.902.7805, or Art Garza, JR Business and Tribal Liaison

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at 509.225.7954 by November 30<sup>th</sup>. We will hold the first workgroup meeting in person in Olympia, and then have in person or phone call meetings as needed. As soon as we have the workgroup members identified, we will identify a time that works best for the majority of the representatives.

We greatly look forward to meeting with you soon to address this important matter.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Marybeth Queral". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned above the printed name and title.

Marybeth Queral  
Assistant Secretary

cc:

IPAC Delegates

Tim Collins, Senior Director DSHS OIP