

Charitable Choice Notification SUD Treatment and Prevention Providers

All providers which consider their services to be offered as a religious (or faith-based) organization need to follow the four (4) regulations listed below:

1. The designation of religious (or faith-based) organization as such be based on the organization's self-identification as religious (or faith-based).
2. These organizations are eligible to participate as providers, e.g. a "level playing field" with regard to participating as a Mid-South contracted provider.
3. A program client (beneficiary) receiving services from such an organization who objects to the religious character of a program has a right to notice, referral, and alternative services which meet standards of timeliness, capacity, accessibility, and equivalency; and ensuing contact to this alternative provider.
4. Other requirements, including exclusion of inherently religious activities and non-discrimination. (For more information regarding Charitable Choice please refer to Policy #A006, located at the Mid-South website, www.mssac.com).

To be in compliance with #3 all programs self-identified as religious (or faith-based) are to provide notification to treatment clients and prevention service recipients of their right to request alternative services. All SUD treatment providers identified as religious (or faith-based) will need to inform clients during the assessment/intake process the nature of its organization. It is recommended that those programs which identify themselves as religious (or faith-based) use the federal model notice on their organization's letterhead to give to clients. It may also be prudent to have this notice displayed in a prominent and noticeable location. Below is the model notice contained in the federal regulations.

"No provider of substance abuse services receiving Federal funds from the U. S. Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration, including this organization, may discriminate against you on the basis of religion, a religious belief, a refusal to hold a religious belief, or a refusal to actively participate in a religious practice.

If you object to the religious character of this organization, Federal law gives you the right to a referral to another provider of substance abuse services. The referral, and your receipt of alternative services, must occur within a reasonable period of time after you request them. The alternative provider must be accessible to you and have the capacity to provide substance abuse services. The services provided to you by the alternative provider must be of a value not less than the value of the services you would have received from this organization."

Annually, Mid-South is required to inform the Department, for federal reporting purposes, the number of individuals who have asked to transfer from a religious (or faith-based) organization to a secular program. For those programs self-identified, Mid-South will be requesting this information from you, so please develop a methodology to collect it.