

**SECTION - SUPPORTIVE SERVICES  
ADMINISTRATIVE DIRECTIVE NO. 618  
(Replaces A.D. No. 618 dated 5/11/06)**

Effective Date: April 12, 2007

**SUBJECT: MARRIAGE OF INDIVIDUALS**

**I. PURPOSE**

To assist Individuals who choose to exercise their rights to marry while living at Coalinga State Hospital (CSH).

**II. AUTHORITY**

California laws relating to marriage are contained in Division IV, of the Civil Code, Section 4100 et. seq.

**III. POLICY**

Treatment of Individuals is a primary mission of CSH. Treatment of an Individual may include planning for future living arrangements and may involve marriage planning. Hospitalization does not, by itself, constitute a barrier to marriage. An Individual has the legal right to marry while hospitalized, with the exception of court conservatees. Hospital staff has the ethical obligation to provide guidance and counseling.

**IV. METHOD**

- A. To initiate a request for marriage planning, the Individual must supply in writing to his Wellness and Recovery Team via his social worker:
  - 1. The names, addresses, ages, and present marital status of both marriage partners.
  - 2. Release of Information signed for the fiancée.
- B. The social worker will immediately forward to the appropriate hospital chaplain a stamped MH 5722, Consultation Referral and Report. It will be the Individual's responsibility to follow up with the chaplain for consultation.
- C. The appropriate chaplain and the staff social worker assigned to the unit will interview the Individual and his fiancée individually and jointly. (Under guidelines of WIC 5328 and the Tarasoff Decision.)

- D. On receipt of the Chaplain's Consultation and Report (MH 1731), the Unit Supervisor or designee shall schedule the Individual for an immediate Wellness and Recovery Team meeting, to which the chaplain and social worker will be involved.
- E. The Wellness and Recovery Team shall interview the Individual and document on MH 5728 discussion of the following areas:
  - 1. Individual's current status and progress in treatment.
  - 2. The relationship between the Individual's progress and his marriage plan.
  - 3. An evaluation of the fiancée's understanding of the Individual's history, offense, and emotional and behavioral problems. If she has not been interviewed, a statement as to why not.
  - 4. A summary of both the pros and cons of the marriage plan.
- F. The treating psychologist shall note the wellness and recovery team's opinion regarding the Individual's marriage request, and a copy of the note will be forwarded to the Program Director.
- G. If the prospective spouse is under the age of 18, the Individual shall obtain written consent of parent(s) or guardian and the court as described in Civil Code Section 4100.
- H. The Individual's request, with the team documentation and the chaplain's written reply attached, shall be countersigned by the Program Director as having been reviewed. Both documents will then be routed to the Medical Director for final review.
- I. The Individual shall be given a copy of the final team evaluation. The Individual may not be denied the marriage unless by court order or discovery of existing marriage.
- J. If the Individual then wishes to proceed with his plan, he must make the arrangements described in Section V.

V. PLANS

- A. All planning for the wedding is the responsibility of the couple, their families, and the officiant.
- B. The marriage partner must go to the County Clerk's office in Fresno to initiate the marriage license and fill out all necessary papers in advance of the ceremony.

- C. At least two weeks prior to the date of the wedding, the Individual must provide the following:
1. The Trust Office with an estimated cost of those items to be paid from the Individual's account, names and addresses of vendors, and sufficient funds to cover such costs.
  2. To Department of Police Services (DPS) and Program Director:
    - a. Date, time, and duration of ceremony, to be determined in consultation with Hospital Police Services according to visiting room schedule.
    - b. Name of person who will perform the ceremony.
    - c. Names and addresses of any service providers who will have a need to enter the visiting room.
    - d. Guest list must not exceed more than 6 visitors, including other Individuals, as approved by their treatment teams.
- D. If the Individual desires the services of an outside clergy person to officiate at his wedding, the outside clergy person must first be approved by the Department of Pastoral Services and Police Services. Individuals who are ministers may not perform marriages for other Individuals or staff.

## VI. COSTS

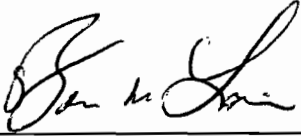
All expenses of the wedding are the responsibility of the couple. All financial transactions paid by the Individual shall be handled through the Trust Office as for any other expenditure. Basic costs will include:

- A. Cost of the license may be paid by the Individual through the Trust Office, or by the partner or family member.
- B. Costs of flowers, decorations, refreshments, photographs, special clothing, etc., and fee, if any, to person solemnizing marriage if not a hospital chaplain, shall be paid either by the Individual through the Trust Office, by the partner or family member.

## VII. WEDDING CEREMONY

- A. Religious marriages of Individuals may be solemnized in the visiting room, as authorized by the Department of Pastoral Services.
- B. Marriage ceremonies shall not be combined with any other social or therapeutic activity.
- C. Use of the visiting room shall be scheduled through Hospital Police Services, and shall not conflict with any regularly scheduled visiting room activity.

- D. Gifts shall not be brought inside the security area of the hospital, and must be removed from the hospital grounds by the bride, family, or friends when they leave.
- E. Normal security procedures, including search, will be in effect for both Individuals and visitors.



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BEN MCLAIN  
Executive Director (Acting)

Cross Reference(s):  
A.D. No. 146 Administrative Rules