 **Canada & Bermuda Territory - Social Services Department**

**Spiritual & Religious Care**

**Corrections and Justice Ministry**

**Top 10 List: When to Call a Corrections Chaplain**

1. **“Why?” Questions**

The client is asking questions such as “Why is this happening to me?” or “Why is God punishing me?”

2. **Family Member Contact**

The family members of clients who are maintaining an active, supportive connection may want to talk.

3. **Legal System Information**

Client asks you to connect with or provide a lawyer, legal aid, duty counsel, etc.

4. **Religious Need**

Clients who express a religious or spiritual concern should be interviewed for a spiritual assessment and a spiritual care plan should be developed. Examples could include Bible Studies, Chapel Service, prayer, or a safe & quiet place to come to share their story.

5. **Bereavement**

The client mentions bereavement during the last year, or an anniversary of bereavement, or any other loss (e.g. job, death of pet, end of a marriage). Will the client be able to attend funeral/visitation?

6. **Persistent Negative Feelings**

The client expresses persistent feelings of hopelessness, sadness, guilt, fear, anxiety, or resentment.

7. **Recognition of Total Pain**

The client complains of a feeling of persistent pain in spite of all appropriate medical interventions.

8. **Potentially Life-Threatening**

The client speaks of suggesting they are suicidal, being threatened by other inmates or put in isolation. Be sure to also follow all institutional safety protocols in such instances, as well.

9. **Relocation or Release**

The client expresses anxiety or anger at being relocated or released and the need to adjust to a new environment.

10. **Material Assistance**

A client may need clothing or transportation help upon release.

**Contact a Chaplain whenever you believe there may be a spiritual need.**