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

**Spiritual & Religious Care**

**Long Term Care Ministry**

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

1. **“Why?” Questions**

The resident is asking questions such as “Why is this happening to me?” “What did I do to deserve this?” or “Why is God punishing me?”

2. **Anxiously Awaiting Diagnosis**

The resident expresses anxiety while awaiting a diagnosis, especially if a life-threatening disease is being confirmed (or ruled out), or if the resident is still waiting news after several days.

3. **Potentially Life-Threatening Diagnosis**

The resident is newly diagnosed with a potentially life-threatening disease or condition.

4. **Serious or Repeated Set-backs**

The resident is WAY off the care pathway. There have been a series of set-backs, complications, or other unexpected events.

5. **Terminal or Dying**

All residents believed to be dying should be assessed for spiritual and religious needs by the chaplain.

6. **Bereavement**

The resident mentions bereavement during the last year, or an anniversary of bereavement, or ANY OTHER LOSS (e.g. loss of driving privileges, death of pet). Also refer any resident who becomes bereaved while in the residence.

7. **Persistent Negative Feelings**

The resident expresses persistent feelings of hopelessness, sadness, guilt, fear, anxiety, or homesickness.

8. **Pain**

The resident still complains of feeling pain in spite of all appropriate pharmacological measures being taken.

9. **Family Members**

The family members of residents in any of the above circumstances may need support.

10. **Family Members Making Decisions**

Family members feeling anxious or guilty over decisions being made on behalf of a patient (e.g. – D.N.R., withdrawing of life support, residential placement, etc.) and may need care.

**Contact a Chaplain anytime residents or families request spiritual or religious care, or whenever you believe there may be a spiritual need.**