

# Spiritual Care Department

## Clergy Badge Application Packet



### Who should apply for a Clergy Badge?

It is important to note that a “Clergy Badge” is a privilege, not a right. Clergy members have the right to visit patients within normal visitation guidelines, **just as other visitors**. In a desire, however, to facilitate the vital ministry of local clergy members to our patients we choose to make available, to qualified individuals, “Clergy Visitation privileges.” An officially-issued Clergy Badge, which is valid across the entire network, will provide you with a greater flexibility throughout our health system as you seek to minister to your parishioners and those who request your services.

Who qualifies for a Clergy Badge?

- The lead person (Pastor/Priest/Rabbi/Minister) in a **LOCAL** house of worship.
- Other leaders and lay ministers within the **LOCAL** house of worship whose ministry includes **REGULAR** hospital visitation. This does NOT automatically include every staff member, employee, deacon, elder, evangelist, or minister.

The Spiritual Care Department will have to make judgment calls out of necessity and reserves the right to reject an application. Those individuals acting outside of the umbrella of a local house of worship are not seen by this department as qualified for a Clergy Badge, since they would not have a natural constituency to minister to. Providing proof of ordination or licensing of some sort does not suffice to obtain a Clergy Badge. Our policy is to partner with **LOCAL** houses of worship in this program. This affords a greater level of accountability for the minister and safety for our patients. Individuals not serving with a local house of worship, if desiring to be involved in hospital ministry, are encouraged to consider serving as a “Spiritual Care Volunteer” within our health system.

Where applicable, a **LOCAL** house of worship will assign an individual who will serve as the key contact with this department. No Clergy Badge will be approved without first consulting with this individual – and this individual will be responsible on behalf of the house of worship for any clergy badges assigned.

## Frequently Asked Questions

### ***“I don’t belong to a local house of worship – what do I need to do to obtain a Clergy Badge?”***

You would not qualify to receive a Clergy Badge until such time as your visits would be made on behalf of a local house of worship. You are welcome to apply to become a Spiritual Care Volunteer.

### ***“I haven’t cleared my application through my local house of worship – what should I do?”***

First, you must realize that this program exists only to assist local ministers serving local houses of worship as they minister to their congregants. We would suggest you plug in with your house of worship and express your desire to serve that congregation through hospital visitation. We will be unable to issue a Clergy Badge to you without approval. You are welcome to make visits as a regular visitor, subject to normal visitation guidelines.

### ***“But I am an ordained minister ... Why?”***

We do not dispute that! Much like a doctor needs official hospital privileges before he/she can practice in our facilities, we do not question your credentials – we simply set before you the requirements to obtain a Clergy Badge within our facilities.

### ***“What if I am a retired minister?”***

Thank you for your service!

First ... We would love to have you help us as a Spiritual Care Volunteer!

Second ... Surely the congregation you currently attend would be more than happy to have you serve them as a visitation minister! We would need to have their approval for your Clergy Badge.

### ***“Can I get a list at the front desk of all the patients that are from my particular denomination or religious organization?”***

Thank you for your desire to visit patients. Even though we want to give you as much access to patients for their continued support, due to HIPAA laws, we are not able to disclose patient information and give you a list at the front desk. However, if your desire is to minister hope to a larger population then we invite you to consider becoming a Spiritual Care Volunteer. As a Spiritual Care volunteer you would have the authorization to access patient information as part of Inspira’s Spiritual Care program. To become a Spiritual Care Volunteer please contact the Spiritual Care Department.

- Elmer/Mullica Hill 856.508.2105
- Vineland/Bridgeton 856.641.7886

### ***“These are the dumbest rules I’ve ever heard – who can I chew out?”***

Please feel free to contact the Spiritual Care office in Vineland to speak with the department supervisor – Pastor Greg Hill. The number is 856-641-7886.

We truly are seeking to have a system that serves our community well, while having the Clergy Badge hold real meaning. For security purposes we cannot issue these badges without careful scrutiny and accountability. Issuing badges in connection with a local house of worship provides that accountability and an extra layer of security.

Thank you very much for your cooperation!