

Prayer at Nutrition Sites

The following policy statement was originally issued by the California Department of Aging in March 1995 regarding prayer before meals:

Each project or sites council should decide the best manner to address the issue of prayer before meals. There is no conflict with federal regulations to have prayer at sites. Precedence in this matter may be seen in that our legislators begin each session with a prayer. Each council should decide that, if prayer is to be conducted, it should be done in a manner which is most acceptable; e.g., silent prayer or vocal prayer or in a non-denominational manner. It is not appropriate to expect all participants to participate in prayer; but desire by older persons to offer a brief prayer in a quiet and discreet manner which does not cause offense should be accommodated.”

This policy statement can be used as the basis for Area Agencies on Aging and Elderly Nutrition Program providers to develop policies and procedures.