

July 29, 1994

**TRADITIONAL CULTURAL ADVOCACY PROGRAM
POLICY STATEMENT**

The Indian Health Service (IHS) recognizes the value of traditional beliefs, ceremonies, and practices in the healing of body, mind, and spirit. The IHS encourages a climate of respect and acceptance in which traditional beliefs are honored as a healing and harmonizing force within individual lives, a vital support for purposeful living, and an integral component of the healing process. It is the policy of the IHS to facilitate right of American Indian and Alaska Native people to their beliefs and health practices as defined by the tribe's or village's traditional culture. This policy is meant to complement and support previously stated IHS policy for implementing the American Indian Religious Freedom Act of 1978 (Public Law 95-341, as amended).

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