

GEORGIA DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTIONS Standard Operating Procedures		
Policy Name: Purposes (Chaplaincy Program)		
Policy Number: 106.01	Effective Date: 8/4/2017	Page Number: 1 of 2
Authority: Commissioner	Originating Division: Inmate Services Division	Access Listing: Level II: Required Offender Access

I. Introduction and Summary:

This Standard Operating Procedure (SOP) sets out the guidelines for administering the Chaplaincy Program and provides for religious programming for offenders, including:

1. Program coordination and supervision;
2. Opportunities to practice one's faith individually and corporately as authorized;
3. Possession of authorized religious symbols and/or items essential for faith practice purchased through authorized vendors at the offender's expense;
4. Access to religious program information;
5. Access to approved publications related to religious beliefs and practices;
6. The observance of authorized religious diets, holy day ceremonies, work restrictions, and authorized communal sacramental rites (providing such rites do not conflict with existing procedures/policies or jeopardize the security and orderly running of the facility);
7. Distribution of resources among faith groups authorized to meet, commensurate with their representation within the population, to include the use of religious facilities and equipment accessibility by staff chaplains to all areas of the facility; and
8. Visitation of clergy/spiritual advisor to occur through established visiting procedures and use of community resources to include the use of religious volunteers, consistent with the safety and security of the facility.

II. Authority:

- A. United States Constitution, First and Fourteenth Amendment;
- B. Americans with Disabilities Act;
- C. GDC Board Rule: 125-3-1-01;

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D. GDC SOP: 227.05 Visitation of Offenders; and

E. Central Office Standard: 2-CO-5E-01.

III. Definitions:

None.

IV. Statement of Policy and Applicable Procedures:

A. Services to Offenders: The purpose of the Chaplaincy Program is to minister to the religious needs of the offender. Opportunities for spiritual growth are offered through religious study group experiences and reality oriented individual counseling and pastoral care groups. The counseling and care groups will address issues related to family, financial, marital, parenting and religious issues. These programs are designed to enhance the dignity and worth of the individual and allow offenders the opportunity to experience repentance, forgiveness, evaluation and possible modification of his/her value system to correspond to healthy spiritual and societal standards. Offenders may have special visits with clergy per SOP 227.05 Visitation of Offenders.

B. Services to Staff: Staff may be ministered to through the Chaplaincy Program, as appropriate. The Chaplain may offer ministry such as: short term individual and family counseling, pastoral visitation and support during illnesses and crisis oriented life events.

C. Liaison to Community: The Chaplaincy program may partner with the community as appropriate. The Chaplain may offer ministries/programs soliciting support and services in the community that will assist offenders both pre and post release.

V. Attachments: None.

VI. Record Retention of Forms Relevant to this Policy: None.