

GEORGIA DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTIONS Standard Operating Procedures		
Functional Area: Programs/Chaplaincy	Reference Number: VA01-0008	Revises Previous Effective Date: 7/01/05
Subject: ISLAMIC (Muslim) Guidelines		
Authority: OWENS/SMITH	Effective Date: 7/15/10	Page 1 of 5

I. POLICY:

To describe guidelines pertaining to the Worship service, Islamic religious representatives, Jumah Prayer, Ramadan and meal requirements of the Islamic World religion.

II. APPLICABILITY:

All State institutions and Centers.

III. RELATED DIRECTIVES:

- A. Americans with Disabilities Act.
- B. Religious Land Use and Institutionalized Persons Act of 2000 (RLUIPA), 42 USC Section 2000cc et seq.
- C. GDC-SOP: IVF06-0001.

IV. DEFINITIONS:

NONE.

V. ATTACHMENTS:

NONE.

VI. PROCEDURE:

- A. Worship Service and the Islamic religious representatives:
 - 1. There should be a regularly scheduled service for the Islamic faith that is open to all on a voluntary basis. This service is generic and does not confine itself to any one school of thought and is open to

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all Muslims. This is the same criteria we use with Protestant services in that we do not set up services for each denomination. There is also a Chaplain that is Muslim assigned to most State facilities and we do not provide offenders with the minister of their choice.

2. Members of Specified Schools of Thought or Sects are entitled to contact the Chaplain and arrange for one minister of their choice to be placed on their visitation list for a pastoral visit. This will give them access to a minister of their school of thought.

B. Friday Jumah Prayer:

Friday Jumah Prayer is the essential prayer service for the Muslim established by the Islamic religion that is equivalent to Sunday Worship for the Christian.

1. The time for Jumah Prayer is within a pre-established time frame required by the Islamic religion. If Jumah Prayer is missing during the established time frame, the prayer cannot be made up at an earlier or later time. Therefore, Jumah Prayer should conform to the following time frame guidelines:
 - a. Recommend that Jumah Prayer be held between 1:00 p.m. and 3:00 p.m. each Friday as established by the Islamic religion, if operationally feasible.
 - b. Recommend that Jumah Prayer be a minimum of one (1) hour and a maximum time of one and hour one half (1 ½).
 - c. Recommend that in the absence of an approved outside Imam that a non-security or security staff member be appointed to provide direct supervision of the Jumah Prayer Service.
 - d. Recommend that the appointed staff supervisor become familiar with the order of the Jumah Prayer Service that is provided with the guidelines.

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e. Recommend that all practicing Muslim inmates be allowed to attend.

2. Kufi prayer caps (small caps that fit flush on the head) may be worn at anytime provided that it is a single ply fabric, it is white in color, and it does not present a safety or security issue. The cap can cover no more of the inmate's head than is covered by a state issued detail cap. Logos and embroidery must be white so that the appearance is white on white. Women of the Islamic faith should be allowed to cover their head as appropriate to security interest and regulations.
3. Personal possession of a small prayer rug for use during times of prayer is authorized (worshippers bow in complete prostration). The rug may be a washable lightweight rug, cloth or towel no larger than 3' x 4' for use during corporate prayer and/or in cell during time of individual prayer. Prayer rugs are restricted from being solid black or blue.

C. Ramadan - Month of Fasting:

Muslims are required by the Islamic Religion to exercise their responsibility of fasting during Ramadan. The period of fasting is the 9th month of the Lunar Calendar. Consequently, the Ramadan would begin 9 to 11 days earlier each year depending on the Solar Calendar. The month of Ramadan may be 29 to 30 days in duration depending on the moon's position.

1. The Director of Chaplaincy Services will notify the Institutional Chaplain and Warden/Superintendent of the dates one month prior to Ramadan's beginning each year.
2. Practicing Muslim inmates/detainees desiring to observe Ramadan should submit their names to the Chaplain and sign an agreement to abide by the terms of Ramadan. The list and signed agreements should be retained by the Chaplain or designated appointed person by the Warden/Superintendent.

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3. During Ramadan, Muslims are required to abstain from food and drink during daylight hours. Therefore, the Warden/Superintendent will consider:
 - a. Feeding practicing Muslim inmates/detainees breakfast before dawn.
 - b. Providing practicing Muslim inmates/detainees with a sack dinner or hot meal after the sun has set.
4. Practicing Muslim inmates/detainees observing Ramadan will abstain from meals served in the institution during daylight hours.
5. Muslim inmates/detainees may request removal of their names from the Ramadan list by contacting the Chaplain and Food Service personnel in written form.
6. Muslim abusing the Ramadan feeding agreement will be subject to disciplinary action and removed from the list.
7. Inmates/Detainees observing Ramadan that are placed in Administrative Segregation or Disciplinary Isolation will be served the Ramadan meals the same as those in general population. Food is not to be used as a disciplinary sanction for an individual inmate/detainee.

D. Holy Days:

Muslims are required to observe the following two obligatory Holy Days:

1. Eid-ul-Fitr: the festival marking the breaking of the fast of Ramadan. Dates will be announced one month prior to Ramadan each year. A special holiday meal is served on Eid provided in the GDC Master Menu.
2. Eid-ul-Adha: the festival commemorating the sacrifice of Abraham celebrated at the end of the annual pilgrimage. It is observed approximately 70 days after the end of Ramadan.

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3. It is recommended during the morning of Eid that two (2) hours of prayer be allowed in the Chapel or other appropriate place for practicing Muslim inmates.

E. Muslim Meal Provision:

Offenders who desire a pork-free diet will be accommodated through the following provisions:

1. The Department of Corrections Master Menu has been written so that anyone who does not eat pork can receive the required daily allowance by bypassing the pork entree for the meal in which it is served.
2. Of the two main meals (supper and dinner), there is to be no more than one pork entree served per day. Non-pork trays are not to contain any pork item from the menu on the tray.
3. In the preparation of other foods, there will be no pork derivatives used for flavoring or shortening, but a non-pork ham seasoning and vegetable shortening can be used.
4. If any meat substitution is made for the entire population, it must not be a pork item if one of the two main meals (dinner/supper) has a pork entree. Pork items are to be placed at the end of the serving line and persons serving pork items will not serve any other food.