

| <b>GEORGIA DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTIONS</b><br>Standard Operating Procedures |                                       |   |
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| <b>Functional Area:</b><br>Programs/Chaplaincy                            | <b>Reference Number:</b><br>VA01-0010 | <b>Revises Previous Effective Date:</b><br>2/01/01    |
| <b>Subject:</b><br>Communion Wine   |                                       |   |
| <b>Authority:</b><br>OWENS/SMITH  | <b>Effective Date:</b><br>7/15/10     | Page 1 of<br><div style="text-align: center;">2</div> |

**I. POLICY:**

It is the policy of the Georgia Department of Corrections to allow communion services to be held in them facility setting. For specific denominations and faiths i.e., Roman Catholic, Episcopal and Lutheran Churches, wine with an alcoholic content from 12 to 18% may be required for the communion service. Since alcohol is generally a controlled substance and not allowed in the facility setting, procedures provide guidance to the chaplaincy and other facility staff in regard to the control of communion wine.

**II. APPLICABILITY:**

All State/County facilities, Transitional and Detention Centers.

**III. RELATED DIRECTIVES:**

Americans with Disabilities Act.

**IV. DEFINITIONS:**

NONE.

**V. ATTACHMENTS:**

NONE.

**VI. PROCEDURE:**

A. Communion wine is to be treated as a controlled substance. In the facility setting, discretion and caution should be exercised regarding the use of alcohol in the communion service.

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- B. To minimize reinforcing substance abuse, i.e., those inmates who have problems with alcohol, wine given to the inmate should be minimal. Therefore, if wine is required doctrinally by the faith group, then the intinction method will be observed.
- C. In the event that the Chaplain has been unable to negotiate a variance (the substitution of grape juice), the facility Chaplain may purchase and keep wine with the alcoholic content of 12 to 18% in the medical section, pharmacy section or other designated controlled area. Supply funds may be used for these purchases with prior approval.
- D. Records of receipts and disbursements will be signed and controlled as any other drug.
- E. One ounce and not more than two ounces can be issued as needed for the communion service.
- F. The following procedures will be utilized for drawing and utilizing communion wine:
1. The facility Chaplain will draw one ounce. He/She will sign for the amount drawn.
  2. The Priest/Minister will be responsible for coordinating communion services with the facility Chaplain and the mixing of one third (1/3) water with the wine.
  3. The Priest will obtain the wine from the Chaplain prior to the service. If the service is held in the evening or weekend then the wine would be placed in a controlled area and the Priest draw and sign for the wine.
  4. The Roman Catholic Priest is to consume or properly dispose of all the wine and leave no wine available for inmates.
  5. The Episcopal, Lutheran and other Ministers will use the intinction method, i.e., the wafer will be dipped in the wine and given to the inmate. The remaining wine is to be consumed or properly

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disposed by the Minister/Chaplain and not be available to the inmates.