

<b>GEORGIA DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTIONS</b> Standard Operating Procedures		
<b>Functional Area:</b> Programs/Chaplaincy	<b>Reference Number:</b> VA01-0012	<b>Revises Previous Effective Date:</b> 2/01/01
<b>Subject:</b> WICCA (Witchcraft) Guidelines		
<b>Authority:</b> OWENS/SMITH	<b>Effective Date:</b> 7/15/10	Page 1 of <div style="text-align: center;"><b>3</b></div>

**I. POLICY:**

To give approved religious paraphernalia and authorized practices.

**II. APPLICABILITY:**

All State facilities and Centers.

**III. RELATED DIRECTIVES:**

- A. United States Constitution, First and Fourteenth Amendments.
- B. Religious Freedom Restoration Act of 1993.
- C. ACA Standards for Adult Facilities Third Edition.
- D. Americans with Disabilities Act.

**IV. DEFINITIONS:**

NONE.

**V. ATTACHMENTS:**

NONE.

**VI. PROCEDURE:**

- A. Approved Religious Paraphernalia:
  - 1. Religious Writing:

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- a. Book of Shadows: This will be identified by the Inmate and may be handwritten, photocopied, mimeographed or professionally printed.
  - b. A reasonable number of other books on the history, rituals and/or ceremonies may be permitted.
2. Protective Covering for the Book of Shadows: The inmate may be loaned one (1) standard issue white towel for this purpose or permitted to purchase one through a vendor. NOTE: A loan-item may not be marked by the inmate in any form or fashion.
  3. Tarot Cards: One pack of 78 cards.
  4. Athame: Photo or cardboard drawing of this ceremonial knife, not longer than 8 ½ inches.
  5. Candles and/or Incense: These items may be approved for use on special days but will not be retained by the inmate. The Chaplain or other designated staff member will keep these items in a secured location.
  6. The items approved for use by a WICCA inmate are to be treated with professional respect, but are subject to routine searches. An inmate will make these items available as is the case with all other personal property. Any Wiccan items other than those specifically approved in this procedure will be considered contraband and handled accordingly.
- B. Approved Practices:
1. Any rituals/ceremonies will be handled individually in the inmate's cell, or other approved location within the facility, using only the religious paraphernalia authorized in this procedure.
  2. Meetings for religious study may be handled through special "ministerial" visits or through group study, provided a Community Volunteer is available.
  3. A Wiccan inmate will not attempt to use his/her religious practice in order to intimidate or

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threaten another inmate or staff member. Such behavior may result in disciplinary action.

4. Any special requests related to the observance of special days should be coordinated through the Chaplain's office and will require facility/center review and approval. Questions concerning the appropriateness of any inmate's request should be directed to the Director of Chaplaincy.
5. It may be necessary to revise this procedure as the need arises. Should you have any questions or need clarification about various aspects of WICCA, please direct your inquiries to the Director of Chaplaincy.