

<b>GEORGIA DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTIONS</b> Standard Operating Procedures		
<b>Functional Area:</b> Programs/Chaplaincy	<b>Reference Number:</b> VA01-0013	<b>Revises Previous Effective Date:</b> 7/15/2010
<b>Subject:</b> Native American Guidelines		
<b>Authority:</b> Owens/Smith	<b>Effective Date:</b> 10/01/2012	Page 1 of <div style="text-align: center;"><b>3</b></div>

**I. POLICY:**

To provide guidance regarding 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 Land Use and Institutionalized Persons Act of 2000 (RLUIPA), 42 USC Section 2000cc et seq.
- C. ACA Standards for Adult Facilities 3rd Edition.
- D. Americans with Disabilities Act.

**IV. DEFINITIONS:**

NONE.

**V. ATTACHMENTS:**

NONE.

**VI. PROCEDURE:**

- A. Approved Religious Paraphernalia:
  - 1. Medicine Bag: May possess one medicine bag and the size should not exceed 2 inches by 2 inches. It's content are subject to routine security searches. An inmate/detainee will make these items available, as

Functional Area: Programs/Chaplaincy	Prev. Eff. Date: 7/15/10	Page 2 of 3
	Effective Date: 10/01/2012	Reference Number: VA01-0013

is the case of personal property. Contents are to be treated with professional respect.

2. Headband: Must be made of cloth and solid color white only. It can be worn at any time as long as it does not present any safety or security issues. The headband must cover no more of the inmate's head than is covered by a standard detail cap. Logos and embroidery must be white so the appearance is white on white.
  3. Feather: Feathers must have a closed shaft and must not be the size and kind that could be used as a weapon. May be kept in Medicine bag.
  4. One Small Shell: Any open, shallow type, no bigger than 3 inches in diameter. Small one may be kept in Medicine bag.
  5. Sacred Stones: Limited to 7 marble sized pebbles.
  6. Native American Books: For teaching and learning.
- B. The items approved for use by a Native American inmate are to be treated with professional respect, but are subject to routine searches. An inmate will make these items available as in the case with all other personal property. Any Native American items other than those specifically approved in this procedure will be considered contraband and handled accordingly.
- C. Approved Practices:
1. Any rituals/ceremonies will be handled individually in the inmate's/detainee'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 Native American inmate will not attempt to use his/her religious practice in order to intimidate or

Functional Area: Programs/Chaplaincy	Prev. Eff. Date: 7/15/10	Page 3 of 3
	Effective Date: 10/01/2012	Reference Number: VA01-0013

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 institutional/center review and approval. Questions concerning the appropriateness of any inmate's/detainee'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 questions or need clarification about the various aspects of the Native American, please direct your inquiries to the Director of Chaplaincy.