

GEORGIA DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTIONS



Standard Operating Procedures

Policy Name: Islamic (Muslim) Guidelines

Policy Number: 106.08

Effective Date: 11/16/2020

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Authority:
Commissioner

Originating Division:
Inmate Services Division
(Chaplaincy Services)

Access Listing:
Level II: Required Offender
Access

I. Introduction and Summary:

To describe the Georgia Department of Corrections (GDC) guidelines pertaining to the Worship service, Islamic religious representatives, Jumah Prayer, Ramadan, and meal requirements of the Islamic World religion.

II. Authority:

- A. Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), Title II Provisions;
- B. Religious Land Use and Institutionalized Persons Act of 2000 (RLUIPA), 42 USC Section 2000cc et seq.;
- C. Standard Operating Procedure (SOP): 106.11, Religious Accommodations; and
- D. ACA Standards: 5-ACI-7F-05 (ref. 4-4517) and 5-ACI-7F-07 (ref. 4-4520).

III. Definitions: None.

IV. Statement of Policy and Applicable Procedures:

- 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 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 an Imam assigned to most State facilities, and offenders will not be provided with the minister of their choice.
 - 2. All qualified offenders with disabilities will have access to services, programs, and activities in accordance with the ADA.
 - 3. Members of Specified Schools of Thought or Sects are entitled to contact the facility Chaplain and arrange for one (1) minister of their choice to be placed

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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 one half (1½) hours.
 - 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.
 - 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 any time 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 offender'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

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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 ninth (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 (1) month prior to Ramadan's beginning each year.
 2. Practicing Muslim offenders 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.
 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 offender's breakfast before dawn; and
 - b. Providing practicing Muslim offenders with a sack dinner or hot meal after the sun has set.

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4. Practicing Muslim offenders observing Ramadan will abstain from meals served in the institution during daylight hours.
 5. Muslim offenders may request removal of their names from the Ramadan list by contacting the Chaplain and Food Service personnel in written form.
 6. Muslim offenders abusing the Ramadan feeding agreement will be subject to disciplinary action and removal from the list.
 7. Offenders 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 offender.
- D. Holy Days: Muslims are required to observe the following two (2) obligatory Holy Days:
1. Eid-ul-Fitr: The festival marking the breaking of the fast of Ramadan. Dates will be announced one (1) 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.
 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 offenders.

V. **Attachments:** None.

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