

GEORGIA DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTIONS



Standard Operating Procedures

Policy Name: WICCA (Witchcraft)

Policy Number: 106.12

Effective Date: 11/08/2022

Page Number: 1 of 3

Authority:
Commissioner

Originating Division:
Inmate Services Division
(Chaplaincy Services)

Access Listing:
Level II: Required Offender
Access

I. Introduction and Summary:

To give approved religious paraphernalia and authorized practices.

II. Authority:

- A. United States Constitution, First and Fourteenth Amendments;
- B. Religious Freedom Restoration Act of 1993;
- C. ACA Standards for Adult Correctional Institutions - Fifth Edition;
- D. GDC SOP: 106.11, Religious Accommodations; and
- E. Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990.

III. Definitions: None.

IV. Statement of Policy and Applicable Procedures:

- A. Approved Religious Paraphernalia:
 - 1. Religious Writing:
 - a. Book of Shadows: This will be identified by the offender 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 offender may be loaned one (1) standard issue white towel for this purpose or permitted to purchase 1 through a vendor.

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NOTE: A loaned item may not be marked by the offender in any form or fashion.

3. Tarot Cards: One pack of 78 cards. The cards are not to include depictions of violent acts or graphic sex.
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 offender. The Chaplain or other designated staff member will keep these items in a secured location.
6. The items approved for use by a WICCA offender are to be treated with professional respect but are subject to routine searches. An offender 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 offender'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 offender will not attempt to use his/her religious practice in order to intimidate or threaten another offender or staff member. Such behavior may result in disciplinary action.

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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 offender'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.

V. **Attachments:** None.

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