

POLICY AND PROCEDURES

NUMBER: 1607

SUBJECT: Inmate Religious Programs

ACA STANDARDS: 4-ALDF-5C-17, 18, 19, 20, 21, 22, 23, 24

ACTING DIRECTOR: *Julia Childrey*

EFFECTIVE DATE: 3/1/90 REVISION DATE: 9/97, 10/99,
7/00, 8/06, 7/07, 10/12, 5/15, 1/16,
12/18



I. POLICY

The St. Louis County Department of Justice Services shall provide space for religious services and programs for the inmates, to afford them the opportunity to practice their religious beliefs, so long as such practice does not compromise the safety, order or security of the facility.

II. RESPONSIBILITIES

The St. Louis County Department of Justice Services' *Superintendent of Community Corrections*, Volunteer Coordinator and all Program staff are responsible for the following procedures.

III. DEFINITIONS

Legitimate Religion: A religion, religious denomination or sect supported by literature stating religious principals and recognized by a group of persons who share common, ethical, moral, or intellectual views which are not defamatory, racial, political, derisive or criminal.

[**Ramadan:** The Fast of Ramadan is observed by members of the *Muslim* Faith who refrain from eating during daylight hours for the entire month of Ramadan.]

IV. PROCEDURES

A. General Information

1. A chaplain with, at least, the minimum qualifications of clinical pastoral education or equivalent specialized training and an

endorsement by an appropriate religious-certifying body will be appointed by that religious-certifying body to work in the facility.

2. The *Superintendent of Community Corrections*, in cooperation with the Chaplain, shall be responsible for planning, implementing and directing all aspects of the facility's religious programs.
3. The Volunteer Coordinator, under the direction of the *Superintendent of Community Corrections*, and in cooperation with the Chaplain, shall:
 - a. Maintain communications with faith communities
 - b. Enlist volunteers from faiths represented by the inmate population.
 - c. Supervise and train both lay persons and clergy volunteers
 - d. Enhance religious programs by stimulating the involvement of community clergy and volunteer religious groups.
 - e. Provide religious ministry to the inmates through worship services, administration of rites and sacraments, religious and personal counseling.
 - f. Approve literature or materials donated by outside sources.
 - g. Assist inmates in contacting religious leaders of their faith if their denomination is not represented by the staff or religious volunteers. (These persons will have the appropriate credentials.)
4. If feasible, efforts shall be made by Program staff, in cooperation with the Chaplain, to grant access to all legitimate religious groups for worship activity.

B. Religious Services

1. Religious services will be scheduled and conducted to permit inmates to continue practicing the religion of their choice.
2. The Volunteer Coordinator under the direction of the *Superintendent of Community Corrections* and in cooperation with the Chaplain will provide an ongoing schedule of regular and special programs and services.

3. Attendance at such services shall be voluntary.
4. Adequate space and equipment shall be provided to conduct all religious programs.
5. Inmates housed in Administrative Segregation may attend group or individual religious services, provided they do not represent a safety or security risk to staff, volunteers or other inmates.
6. Individual prayer in the housing unit is permissible given the flexibility of jail schedules. Inmates should have sufficient opportunity to pray during their normal schedules without interruption or special accommodations.
7. Any congregate activities such as worship services, prayer services, study classes, etc. must be led by, under the immediate control of, or supervised by an approved religious leader. Inmate led groups are not allowed.
8. Silent, personal prayers are allowed in the dayroom area of the housing units. Prayers involving kneeling, chanting, or group activity are not allowed in the dayroom.

C. Religious Customs/Rites

1. Inmates shall be allowed to participate in the customs and practices of their religious faith, which includes access to religious materials and dietary requirements.
 - a. Inmates observing the Fast of Ramadan will receive a bag lunch for their pre-dawn meal and the meal after sundown. (See Policy #1003 Special and Religious Diets)
2. Inmates will not be allowed to ingest any alcohol, narcotic, tobacco, or controlled substance during a religious activity.

D. Religious Materials

1. The Volunteer Coordinator, in cooperation with the Chaplain, will assist inmates in obtaining religious literature and materials and will establish a process for screening such materials.
2. All religious books and publications retained by inmates must be in compliance with rules and regulations regarding personal property and authorized in-cell items. (See Policy #811 Authorized In-Cell Items)

3. Inmates shall not receive or be in possession of incense, anointing oils, holy water, candles or any other paraphernalia that could pose a threat to the safety and security of the facility.
4. Religious symbols such as a Cross, Star of David, etc., must be plastic. No metal, wood, cloth or handmade symbols will be allowed. Symbols must be worn underneath the inmates t-shirt or free from view, and never displayed on the outside of the inmate's uniform shirt or jumpsuit.
5. Any inmate requesting a Bible or sacred book of another religion shall be provided a copy.

E. Religious Interviews and Counseling

1. Inmates may request visits with clergy regarding religious, personal or family problems.
2. Volunteer clergy may have private interviews with inmates, including those on ADPH, only with authorization of the *Superintendent of Community Corrections* or Volunteer Coordinator, in cooperation with the Chaplain.
3. Volunteer clergy and the inmate's personal clergy may visit with an inmate in the visiting booths during normal visiting hours.

NOTE: An inmates' family members that are also clergy may only visit with an inmate in the social visiting booths and must follow all social visitation guidelines.

4. In the event of a crisis situation such as a death of an inmate's family member, a Program staff member or the Volunteer Coordinator, in cooperation with the Chaplain, may authorize counseling at other than scheduled times.

F. Special Needs

1. Marriages within the jail shall be prohibited unless ordered by the Court. (See Policy #1606 Inmate Marriages)
2. Religious diets shall be provided to inmates for legitimate reasons when possible. (See Policy #1003 Special and Religious Diets)
3. The Department of Justice Services will provide the availability of clerical staff (non-inmate) who may assist the religious ministries with confidential material.