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ADMINISTRATIVE
REGULATION
NUMBER

462

OPR: CHAPLAIN SERVICES

RELIGIOUS PROGRAM SERVICES

I. GENERAL

This Alabama Department of Corrections (ADOC) Administrative Regulation (AR) establishes the responsibilities, policies, and procedures for recognized religious beliefs and practices of committed offenders.

II. POLICY

It is the policy of the ADOC to permit offenders the right to worship within a declared faith and identify approved practices within the scope of compelling government interests.

III. DEFINITIONS AND ACRONYMS

- A. **Community Sponsor**: An organization or individual(s) approved by the Chaplain and the Warden to provide ministry items for a religious program and/or food for an approved Sacred Day. Approved free-world sponsors shall not be friends or family members of inmates incarcerated at the institution, unless approved specifically by the institutional warden.
- B. **Declared Religious Practitioner**: An inmate who has formally submitted a declaration of religious preference.
- C. **Earth-Based Religion**: Religions that commonly practice sacred rites outside. See section V. Procedures for religions designated earth based. ADOC facilities shall have the following earth-based worship areas:
 1. **Native American Ceremonial Grounds**: An area restricted to Native American practitioners and their guests.

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2. Outdoor Worship Area: An area designated for earth-based religious practices.
- D. **Feast**: A periodic religious observance. The word feast in the title of the celebration does not mean it requires food.
- E. **Inmate Facilitators for Religious Service**: An individual who functions as a lay leader and is approved by the Chaplain. This individual is respected among his/her inmate practitioners of the same religion.
- F. **Observances**: Frequent or periodic religious activities.
- G. **Religious Item**: Paraphernalia for religious groups and personal practice. All items must be procured from an approved vendor, institutional canteen, or an approved ministry. These items may be congregational or personal.
- H. **Religious Meals**: ADOC provides a pork free menu for those inmates whose religious preference stipulates no pork.
- I. **Religious Practice**: The act of formal religious participation.
- J. **Religious Sacred Day(s)**: An approved religious celebration recognized as significant to a specific religion. These observances may be afforded time and space outside the normal schedule. If no date is listed, the date will vary. Consult with the Chaplain.
- K. **Sacred Day Foods**: Sacred Day Foods are identified as foods which have religious significance in one of two categories:
 1. Feast Food: An allowance of food items consumed as a meal in observance of a Sacred Day.
 2. Ritual Food: Specific food items defined by the religion used in a religious rite.

IV. **RESPONSIBILITIES**

- A. The Deputy Commissioner of Governmental Relations and Inmate Rehabilitation is responsible for ensuring that inmates have the opportunity to practice their religious faith as long as the expression does not pose a threat to security, safety, or orderly function of the institution.
- B. The Pastoral Programs Supervisor is responsible for:
 1. Serving as the liaison with the faith/character-based communities.
 2. Validating vendors for religious items.

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