

16. Religious Practices Plan Checklist

[Rule §291.5](#)

Each facility shall have and implement a written plan, approved by the Commission, governing religious practices. The plan shall include the following provisions:

- (1) **removal of inmates not wishing to participate** where group services are held;
- (2) **volunteer programs** and **access to religious leaders in addition to normal visitation**, consistent with security restrictions;
- (3) **review of inmate requests** regarding religious practices by the Sheriff/Operator or his designee;
- (4) **procedures** for **determining whether a request can be accommodated** through the **least restrictive means** *without presenting an undue burden or endangering the safety and security* of the facility;
 - (A) **documentation of the reason for denial** if the request cannot be accommodated;
 - (B) **utilization of the established grievance procedure** when the inmate contends the denial is unjust.

Notes:

- **Disclaimer:** The **bolded**, underlined, and/or **red** sections identify areas that most commonly require revision. However, **all provisions of the standard remain mandatory**, regardless of formatting or emphasis.
- Anything in **blue** is a **hyperlink** that can be clicked on to view pertinent info.
- It is helpful to preserve as much of the language in the standards as possible.
- **(1)** Please convey that participation in religious services is **strictly voluntary**. No inmate is required to attend any religious service or counseling session if they do not wish to do so.
- **(4A)** If an inmate's request is denied, a documented reason for the denial is required.