

STATE OF MARYLAND

**Department of Public Safety
and Correctional Services**



PATUXENT INSTITUTION

Directive

PID # 140-4

DATE: September 15, 2007

SUBJECT: Religious Activities

**TITLE: Providers of Groups
Services and Activities**

- I. REFERENCE: COMAR 12.12.17
- II. PURPOSE: To establish procedures for identifying who may deliver group religious services and activities.
- III. APPLICABLE TO: Patuxent Institution
- IV. PROCEDURE:
 - A. Where available, chaplains and approved volunteers, working under the direction of chaplains, are the preferred service deliverers authorized to conduct worship services, holy day observances, religious education groups and special programs.
 - B. The chaplain or volunteer in charge of conducting an activity shall be present and in control of the activity at all times.
 - C. Where there is no chaplain or volunteer of the appropriate faith available, an inmate may lead an activity.
 - D. Volunteer qualifications
 1. All religious services program volunteers shall meet all qualifications required for volunteers as provided in the 170 series of directives. In addition, volunteers shall meet specific criteria listed below.
 2. Worship leaders shall possess credentials, which authorize them to conduct worship and associated rituals and rites according to the tradition of the faith, sect or denomination, and shall have a current affiliation with and a written reference from a religious organization of the faith, sect, or denomination.
 3. Holy day observance leaders shall possess credentials, which authorize them to conduct the observance and associated rituals or rites according to the tradition of the faith, sect or denomination,

and shall have a current affiliation with and a written reference from a religious organization of the faith, sect, or denomination.

- 4. Religious education group leaders shall possess credentials, which authorize them to teach the religious doctrine, beliefs, and practices of the faith, sect or denomination, and shall have a current affiliation with and a written reference from a religious organization of the faith, sect, or denomination.
- 5. Persons leading special programs shall possess credentials and a written reference from a religious organization of the faith, sect, or denomination, which authorizes them to deliver the type of special program proposed.

E. All volunteers shall be approved, supervised, and discharged according to the provisions of the 170 series of directives.

F. Inmate qualifications

- 1. Where external religious authorities are available, they will be asked to authorize a specific inmate to lead a specific activity based upon the religion's criteria.
- 2. The absence of an external religious authority to so authorize will not preclude an inmate from leading an activity.
- 3. Inmate led religious activities are governed by PID 140-3, Inmate Led Activities.

V. RESCISSION: None



Randall S. Nero
Director

DISTRIBUTION: A
L
S – All chaplains