

DAI Policy 309.61.01 – Religious Beliefs and Practices
Attachment – Congregate Religious Event Conduct
Effective – 01/22/19

The purpose of religious programming is to provide inmates with opportunities for worship, study and spiritual growth. Firm, fair and consistent expectations are necessary to advance this objective.

- Inmates shall respect the time and resources donated by volunteers and faith communities.
- Inmates shall be attentive and respectful, and shall not engage in side conversations.
- Conduct which interferes with the religious practices of other inmates will not be tolerated.

Inmates who violate the terms of Congregate Religious Event Conduct may be subject to disciplinary consequences, including immediate removal from religious events, and/or other discipline consistent with Wisconsin Administrative Code Ch. DOC 303.

Religious programming shall be led, facilitated or supervised by DOC staff members or community volunteers. Inmates are prohibited from:

- Leading the group (i.e. Preaching, teaching, proselytizing)
- Adopting false names or titles in violation of Wisconsin Administrative Code s. DOC 303.35 (e.g. Imam, Reverend, Father, Brother, Deacon, Elder, Pipe Carrier, etc.)
- Electing or designating inmates to carry out leadership roles
- Exercising authority over other inmates
- Defining the beliefs of the group
- Controlling or directing the program content or agenda (e.g. topics, readings, music, etc.)
- Directing how the religion or rituals will be practiced
- Directing who is or is not allowed to participate in events or rituals
- Dictating pre-requisites for others' participation (e.g. ablution, baptism, fasting, heritage, specific studies, etc.)
- Imposing their own religious adherence-level on others

DOC staff members or community volunteers may structure appropriate inmate participation in various aspects of religious programming as follows:

- The Chaplain/designee holds final authority over program content and inmate roles.
- Inmate roles must be planned, scripted or otherwise pre-approved by the Chaplain/designee prior to the event.
- Limited inmate roles within programming may include (not exhaustive): calling the prayer; carrying the pipe; singing in choir; reading a designated passage; performing as a musician; participating in rituals; acting as the fire starter.
- The Chaplain/designee shall randomly and equitably assign roles to inmates, and regularly rotate the roles among all participants.
- All inmates are equally invited to learn and grow through various participation roles.
- On a limited basis, the Chaplain/designee may poll broad inmate preferences on subject matter, reading materials, music, etc.