



ENFORCEMENT AND REMOVAL OPERATIONS (ERO)

CUSTODY PROGRAMS DIVISION (CPD)

RELIGIOUS PRACTICES ACCOMMODATIONS

REFERENCE MANUAL ADDENDUM



U.S. Immigration
and Customs
Enforcement

2021

Intentionally Left Blank

INTRODUCTION

The United States Department of Homeland Security (DHS)/Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE)/Office of Enforcement and Removal Operations (ERO)/Custody Management (CM) provides policy and oversight for the administrative custody of one of the most highly transient and diverse populations of any correctional or detention system in the world. CM manages ICE detention operations efficiently and effectively to provide for the safety, security, and care of noncitizens in ERO custody.

Through an aggressive inspections program, ICE ensures its facilities follow the appropriate ICE detention standards, as determined by each facility contract. In this manual, the 2000 National Detention Standards (NDS 2000), the 2019-revised National Detention Standards (NDS 2019), the 2008 Performance-Based National Detention Standards (PBNDS 2008), the 2011 Performance-Based National Detention Standards (PBNDS 2011), the 2016 revision of the 2011 Performance-Based National Standards (PBNDS 2011 rev. 2016), and the Family Residential Standards (FRS), will collectively be referred to as the “ICE Detention Standards.”

This Addendum to the Religious Practices Accommodations Reference Manual issued in 2019 is intended to:

- Reissue the Frequently Asked Questions section of the original manual, with new additions;
- Provide internet resources to assist facilities in procuring religious items required for religious worship and prayers; and
- Provide background on the basic beliefs and practices on Santería.

This addendum provides additional information to the 2019 Religious Practices Accommodations Reference Manual. It does not replace it.

The 2019 Reference Manual and this addendum are supplementary information to the ICE Detention Standards and other applicable federal laws or statutes, such as the Religious Freedom Restoration Act of 1993. Nothing in this document should be construed as new or revised policy or contractual obligations.

The religious beliefs and practices described herein are based on traditional and/or mainline traditions.

Adherents of a particular faith may interpret their faith requirements differently, and therefore, the tenets of faith outlined here will not be uniformly accepted, practiced, or believed by all individuals of any one faith.

This document is intended for informational purposes only. Nothing contained in this document should be interpreted as creating new contractual requirements or as a private right of action.

Facility staff should first contact local ERO field staff with any questions. If local ERO personnel require additional guidance, they can contact ICE ERO Custody Management at [@ice.dhs.gov](mailto:(b)(6),(b)(7)(C)@ice.dhs.gov) to ask questions and receive technical assistance about religious practice accommodation of individuals in custody.



FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

General – New

Q: Due to Covid-19, religious volunteers are currently not permitted into the facility. Therefore, the facility is not able to offer religious services or visitation for some religious communities. What should I do?

A: Many faiths provide recorded or livestream religious services through their public websites and/or have posted services on video sharing and social media platforms such as YouTube. If your facility has the capability, you can offer video religious services via the internet, on tablets or in a common room at a designated time. ERO facilities increasingly have connectivity as they expand remote visitation (e.g., virtual attorney visitation). You could also explore the possibility of pastoral/religious visitation through video visitation.

Q: Due to Covid-19, noncitizens may be subject to quarantine for a temporary period of time. Do I still need to arrange religious services or other accommodations for them?

A: The safety, security, and orderly operations of a facility are essential, especially during a pandemic. While congregational worship may not be possible, you should still accommodate to the best of the facility's ability the provision of religious items so the noncitizen can practice their faith on their own. If a detainee is in quarantine and is requesting religious accommodations that cannot be fulfilled due to the quarantine requirements, determine what, if any, alternative accommodations are possible and speak directly with the detainee to determine if they are acceptable to the detainee. If no accommodations can be arranged or agreed to due to the quarantine, it is recommended that the facility document the request and why it was denied or rejected in the detainee's A-File and EARM. If the religious accommodation involves a medical related request, it is recommended that you work with the medical staff to document it in the detainee's medical file.

Q: Due to Covid-19, detainees are sometimes cohorted in housing units and limited movement is allowed. Some detainees are holding self-directed worship or religious literature study groups in the housing unit. Unfortunately, others in the housing unit are voicing frustration that the groups can be loud and feel they should not have to hear about other religions. How do I manage the needs of these groups and the complaints from others in the same unit?

A: It is best to address each complaint individually and communicate with all parties in the housing unit. Efforts must be made to allow for religious practice in a manner that does not adversely affect detainees not participating in the practice. Encourage maintenance of respectful volume levels, let others know in advance of the group meetings when they will be occurring, or if possible, arrange a safe alternative location.

Q: A detainee that identifies as Muslim has requested a halal meal. However, the facility does not offer prepackaged halal meals. He then requested to be given the kosher meals, should I provide it to him?

A: ICE detention standards require that we provide detainees with accommodations, including meals, that are consistent with their sincerely held beliefs. The facility is within detention standards obligations by providing the common fare diet rather than the more expensive kosher meal. However, it should be noted that many Muslims will regard a meatless diet as a substantial burden of their exercise of sincerely held religious beliefs and may file a grievance with the facility, the DHS Office of Inspector General, the Joint Intake Center, or the DHS Office for Civil Rights and Civil Liberties. It may save the facility and/or ICE ERO significant effort to simply provide the detainee with the kosher meals. A number of ICE ERO facilities do provide Muslims with kosher meals as a religious diet accommodation, and it is a best practice that is encouraged.

Q: Recently I had a Jewish detainee request to wear his tallit¹ every day, all day. Should this be allowed?

A: If it is determined that the wearing of the tallit is a sincerely held belief by the detainee, it does not interfere with the assigned uniform, and is not determined to be safety or security threat, then the religious garment should be allowed. For example, the PBNDS 2011 rev. 2016 states the following: *“Appendix 5.5.A: Religious Headwear, Garments and Other Religious Property: The following are examples of generally acceptable religious headwear, garments and other religious property/articles of faith.*

A. Religious Headwear

Examples of religious headwear include:

- *yarmulke (Jewish)*
- *kufi (Muslim)*
- *hijab (Muslim; worn by women)*
- *crown (Rastafarian)*
- *turban (Sikh)*

B. Religious Garments

Examples of religious attire and garments include but are not limited to:

- *Scarves and headwraps (hijabs) (Jewish, Muslim, Rastafarian, Orthodox Christian; worn by women). These may be black, white or off-white.*
- *Jumper dresses may be worn by women who wear loose-fitting clothing for the sake of modesty as consistent with their religious beliefs.*
- *Kachhehra (soldier’s shorts) (Sikh men)*
- *Prayer shawls and robes*
- *Kurda or ribbon shirts during ceremonial use.”*

¹ A tallit is a fringed garment, traditionally worn as a prayer shawl. It has special twined and knotted fringes, known as tzitzit, attached to its four corners.

Q: Detainees frequently request religious items that I do not have and the facility does not have or provide me a budget to purchase the items. What do I do?

A: ICE detention standards require *“that detainees of different religious beliefs are provided reasonable and equitable opportunities to participate in the practices of their respective faiths, constrained only by concerns about safety, security and the orderly operation of the facility”* (PBNDS 2011 rev. 2016 5.5.I). The standards further state, *“Efforts shall be made to allow for religious practice in a manner that does not adversely affect detainees not participating in the practice”* (PBNDS 2011 rev. 2016 5.5.V.A). Additionally, the Religious Freedom Restoration Act of 1993 (RFRA), *“Prohibits any agency, department, or official of the United States or any State (the government) from substantially burdening a person's exercise of religion even if the burden results from a rule of general applicability, except that the government may burden a person's exercise of religion only if it demonstrates that application of the burden to the person: (1) furthers a compelling governmental interest; and (2) is the least restrictive means of furthering that compelling governmental interest.”*

ICE detention standards and RFRA require that detainees have access to personal religious property, consistent with the safety, security and the orderly operation of the facility. But neither ICE detention standards nor RFRA require the facility to locate, purchase or provide religious devotional items for detainees. However, it is required for ICE ERO or facility staff to refrain from interfering with the detainee’s ability to locate, purchase and obtain donations such materials on their own, even where the detainee is indigent. Therefore, as the Chaplain/Religious Services Coordinator, you should make all reasonable attempts to assist detainees in obtaining religious items from the local religious community or non-profit organizations, purchase the item on canteen, or, subject to facility rules about outside items, purchase items from an outside vendor or obtain it from their family or friends. You can also reach out to religious.services@ice.dhs.gov for assistance. If a detainee obtains a donation or purchases an item themselves, it is their property. The ICE ERO facility contractor may choose to purchase or obtain through donations religious items for detainees to borrow, in these two cases the items can remain as facility property for future detainee use.

General

Q: A detainee did not declare a faith upon admittance into the facility, but he/she is claiming one now. Is that permitted?

A: Yes. A detainee can declare a faith, change his/her declaration of faith, or choose no faith at any time during his/her detention. For example, the PBNDS 2011 rev. 2016 states 5.5.V.B, *“A detainee may request to change his/her religious preference designation at any time by notifying the chaplain, religious services coordinator or other designated individual in writing, and the change shall be effected in a timely fashion.”*

Q: As the Chaplain/Religious Services Coordinator (RSC), I am unfamiliar with a detainee’s religion/beliefs/religious accommodations request. Is it permissible to solicit information and guidance from an outside religious leader or expert?

A: Yes. Religious leaders are helpful resources about different religions and faith practices. Religious experts or leaders can assist in educating facilities about religious practices. However, they should not be used to validate whether a detainee is a member of a

certain religion. If you are unsure of what religious leader/expert to reach out to for a given faith, you can email

(b)(6),(b)(7)(C) s@ice.dhs.gov for guidance.

Q: In addition to the ICE Detention Standards, does ICE/ERO headquarters provide other guidance or information to assist Chaplains/RSCs and facilities to meet religious services and accommodation needs?

A: Yes. ICE/ERO headquarters produces an annual religious holiday guide that documents important religious holidays/holy days/celebrations. ICE/ERO also distributes broadcasts during the year that provide guidance related to widely celebrated religious holidays such as Christmas, Hanukkah, Easter, Passover, and Ramadan. If you or your facility do not receive the holiday calendar or broadcasts, you can email: (b)(6),(b)(7)(C) y@ice.dhs.gov for a copy. ICE employees may access archived broadcasts on inSight

(b)(7)(E)

Religious Diet

Q: A detainee has been in the facility for some time but now they are requesting a religious diet. How does the facility decide whether to approve it?

A: Per the *ERO Bulletin 14-ERO-001-Supplemental Guidance* (April 1, 2014), “Upon receiving a request for a religious diet accommodation, the Chaplain or food service administrator should jointly verify the religious diet requirement and issue written instructions to implement the diet as soon as practicable, but within ten (10) business days of verification that the detainee’s religious beliefs are sincerely held. Absent an articulable reason to deny the request the presumption must be that the detainee’s request constitutes a legitimate exercise of religious beliefs and practices.”

It may be helpful for the Chaplain/RSC to meet with the detainee to discuss their religious meal needs. An individualized approach may provide clarity to the Chaplain/RSC on what the detainee needs to fulfill their personal beliefs of their chosen faith. The Chaplain/RSC should not attempt to determine whether the religious law/theology/dogma of the faith does or does not require the specific dietary accommodation. The determination to be made is whether the detainee has a sincerely held belief that a special meal accommodation is needed. For example, per section 5.5.A.1 of the PBNDS 2011, “*Religious practices to be accommodated are not limited to practices that are compulsory, central or essential to a particular faith tradition, but cover all sincerely held religious beliefs.*”

Q: Who should I consult before starting/ending a detainee’s religious diet?

A: Per the *ERO Bulletin 14-ERO-001-Supplemental Guidance* (April 1, 2014), “The Chaplain or other worship leader is required to consult with the local Field Office Director (FOD) prior to denying any request for a religious diet. In addition, once a detainee has been approved for a religious diet program, he or she may not be removed from the program without prior consultation with and concurrence from the FOD.”

The bulletin further states, “*Denial or removal from a religious diet must be documented with the date and reason; and must be approved by the facility administrator. The documentation should also include the date of the FOD concurrence.*”

Facility staff should consult the Food Services section of the detention standards the facility is obligated to for further information and guidance.

Q: A detainee is on a halal/kosher/vegetarian diet because of their religious beliefs, but it has been observed that they have consumed items that are not allowed or traded/gave away the meal for the regular meal plan. Should they be allowed to stay on the religious diet?

A: It depends. It is permissible to remove a detainee from a religious diet, if it appears that their religious beliefs are not sincere. Adherents of any one faith may have different interpretations of what is required of them. If a detainee caused an infraction by trading/giving away his meal (if it was a single occurrence or happened a few times), the facility should explain to the detainee why trading/giving away his special meal is not permissible, solicit an explanation from the detainee if possible, and give the detainee a warning not to continue or he may be removed from the special diet.

Q: The facility does not offer a specialized religious diet, such as halal or kosher meals. Instead, the facility provides the common fare meal plan, but the detainee(s) continue to complain. Is the common fare plan compliant with the ICE detention standards?

A: Yes. The common fare meal plan complies with the ICE Detention Standards. Pots, pans, serving spoons, and other preparation and cooking items should not be used for both the common fare meals items and the regular meal plan. The common fare meal plan is designed to fit the halal, kosher, and vegetarian needs of detainees. If the same preparation and cooking items are used, then the common fare items will no longer fit the religious needs of detainees. Per the *ERO Bulletin 14-ERO-001 Accommodation of Kosher Meal* (April 1, 2014), “*Facilities must make available a ‘common fare’ menu, which serves as the foundation to which modifications may be made to accommodate the religious diets of various faiths (e.g., for the inclusion of halal flesh-food options). Common fare represents a no-flesh protein option, offering vegetables, starches, and other foods that are not seasoned with flesh, and must be provided whenever an entrée containing flesh is offered as part of a meal.*”

The bulletin further states, “*the ICE standards on Food Service require that hot entrées should be available to accommodate detainee’s religious dietary needs and should be purchased, prepared and served in a manner that does not violate the religious requirements of any faith group.*”

Q: A facility is interested in purchasing prepackaged certified halal/kosher meals. Where can the facility purchase these?

A: Providing prepackaged certified halal/kosher meals to Muslims and Jewish detainees is a promising practice that ICE ERO Custody Management encourages. Across the country there are numerous vendors to purchase meals from. See the Islam and Judaism sections of this manual for resources. The General Services Administration (GSA) maintains schedules that provide information on cost and vendors:

(b)(7)(E)

Prayer/Worship

Q: A detainee or religious community is requesting to use candles for their prayer/worship, but candles are viewed as a security concern. What can we do?

A: A number of religious faiths use candles in their services. Consistent with the ICE detention standards, the use of candles for religious reasons may be permitted for the purpose of providing accommodation of religious practices (when mandated by the particular faith), subject to facility controls and supervision. Facilities should ensure the lighting of candles for religious purposes complies with applicable ICE Environmental Health and Safety standards related to fire safety codes and fire prevention. Safety and security need to be considered when determining the location of the lighted candles. The designated room for religious services or the chaplain's office may be suitable locations under the close supervision of facility staff. **Candles should never be lit in housing units.**

For many detainees of the Jewish faith, lighting the Chanukah menorah with a real flame is a core component of Jewish law and electric candles are not a sufficient religious accommodation.

The Chaplain/RSC should discuss with facility security personnel and administrators the use of candles for religious accommodations reasons and facilitate their use in a safe and secure way.

For some detainees and religious faiths, electric or virtual candles may be acceptable alternatives. Chaplains/RSCs may choose to discuss with detainees their needs for candles, to determine the appropriate accommodation.

Additional guidance on the use of candles in facilities for religious purposes can be found in the Accommodations of Candles for Religious Practices ERO Broadcast, or by contacting the ICE/ERO National Religious Services Coordinator at [\(b\)\(6\),\(b\)\(7\)\(C\)@ice.dhs.gov](mailto:(b)(6),(b)(7)(C)@ice.dhs.gov).

PROMISING PRACTICES – New

ICE has observed some promising practices that Chaplains/RSCs have implemented in select ICE facilities. They are listed below in no particular order. Promising practices and resources related to specific religions are included in the religion-specific sections of the 2019 Reference Manual and this addendum. Promising practices are informational only and should not be interpreted as creating new policies or contractual requirements.

Note: If your facility has a promising practice to share, send via email to [\(b\)\(6\),\(b\)\(7\)\(C\)@ice.dhs.gov](mailto:(b)(6),(b)(7)(C)@ice.dhs.gov).

- Develop a relationship with local religious communities and non-profit organizations that can provide you guidance and/or donations of religious items.
- Create a “library” of religious items so when a detainee requests an item you can lend it to them during their stay at the facility. For example, have readily available copies of religious texts in different languages (e.g., the Bible, Qur’an, Torah, Vedas, etc.), rosaries/prayer beads, kufis, yarmulke/kippa, prayer rugs, small statues of the Buddha, cards of Catholic saints).
- Get advice or assistance from other Chaplains who work in the ICE network. For example, a detainee may need a copy of the Qur’an in Arabic but you can’t purchase one because you have no budget and you have exhausted your attempts to seek a donation. Therefore, a Chaplain that works in a different facility may be able to provide one they have or leverage a relationship they already have with an organization able to make the donation.

(Note: If you want to be connected to other Chaplains to receive or give assistance, email (b)(6),(b)(7)(C)s@ice.dhs.gov with your name, facility name, best phone number and email address. Feel free to say if there are areas/topics that are especially knowledgeable in.)

PROMISING PRACTICES

Facility

- Works with local houses of worship to arrange for services to be livestreamed so detainees can watch via the internet from the facility.
- Offers interfaith yoga, meditation, and other proven stress reducing programs, which have been well received by various nationalities and faith traditions.
- Provides religious practice and sensitivity training to detention officers.
- Includes the Chaplain in new staff training and allots them time to explain the basics of religious practices accommodations and the ICE detention standards on religious practices.
- If a facility does not have a dedicated Chaplain, it finds and works with local volunteer Chaplains or religious leaders to provide pastoral care and expertise to enhance religious programming.

Role of Chaplain/Religious Services Coordinator (RSC)

- Maintains a religious calendar, and one month before the start of a religious holiday/holy day/celebration speaks with detainees to determine their needs.
- Seeks assistance from ERO personnel in determining an answer/solution to a detainee’s complaint/issue that is compatible with the safety and security of the facility and staff.

- Conducts research and, if appropriate, seeks information from an outside religious leader to understand the religious background of a detainee's request/complaint.
- Maintains a list of detainees' religious preferences.
- Is flexible and proactive in determining alternative options for religious practices that are not permissible due to safety and security concerns.
- Posts daily group prayer/worship schedules in the dormitories and/or in other appropriate areas.
- Maintains a budget to procure religious items.
- Works with the food department and other facility staff to determine mealtimes when a religious fast, holy day/holiday, or other event requires detainees to eat outside of the normal meal service times.
- Downloads free religious texts to tablets or computers for detainees to use.

Chaplain/RSC Communications with Detainees

- Works with ERO personnel to develop a good rapport with detainees so they feel safe raising questions and complaints.
- Works with ERO personnel to engage with detainees to fully understand the nature of their request/complaint and to find an answer/solution/compromise that is consistent with the safety and security of both the facility and its staff.
- Provides new detainees an overview of religious services and accommodations available at the facility.
- Asks detainees about their religion, what practices and beliefs they adhere to, if they have specific religious meal accommodation needs, and if they require any specific religious texts.
- Explains which religious practices may not be permissible due to safety and security issues.
- Attempts to facilitate a detainee's transfer to another facility if his/her religious diet or other religious need cannot be accommodated.

Religious Meal Accommodations

- Maintains a pork-free facility.
- The Chaplain's office and cafeteria staff meet on a weekly basis to review religious meal accommodations and ensure that detainees are receiving religiously appropriate meals.
- When possible, the facility kitchen maintains separate equipment, dishes, cutting boards, knives, etc., for use with food items other than meat, and keeps them separate at all times from equipment used for meat products.
- If microwaves are available to detainees, the facility provides cleaning wipes so detainees can clean equipment before using. This may be a satisfactory accommodation to some religious faiths/individuals, while not satisfactory to others.
- Facility clearly labels all dishes served and lists the ingredients in prepared meals.

INTERNET RESOURCES

Open-source internet websites can provide you great assistance, whether it is conducting research on a particular faith and the beliefs and practices adherents follow, connecting with local religious houses of worship or communities that may be willing to volunteer time or provide donations of religious items, or have religious texts and scriptures that can be downloaded for free to tablets or computers that detainees can use. The following are select number of websites that may be especially helpful in assisting you with your duties. This list is not comprehensive. If you utilize a website that you find especially helpful, email

(b)(6),(b)(7)(C) [@ice.dhs.gov](mailto:ice.dhs.gov) with the website so it can be added to future lists.

GOOGLE APPS OFFERS MOST RELIGIOUS TEXTS FOR FREE. JUST GOOGLE: GOOGLE APP AND THE RELIGION YOU ARE INTERESTED IN.

General		
Name	Website	Description
The General Services Administration (GSA)	https://www.gsaadvantage.gov/advantage/ws/main/start_page?store=ADVANTAGE	United States government approved schedules that provide information on cost and vendors on items that facilities may need for religious items, including but limited to prepackaged kosher/halal food.
Sacred Texts.Com	https://www.sacred-texts.com/download.htm	Downloadable religious text for free. Numerous religions available. Choose the religion from the list on the left.
Learn Religions	https://www.learnreligions.com/	Helpful source that explains the beliefs and practices of many religions.
BUDDHISM		
Buddha Dharma Education Association	http://www.buddhanet.info/wbd/country.php?country_id=2	Source on Buddhism including religious text, description of beliefs and practices, meditation recordings, and a directory of Buddhist temples throughout the United States.
Digital Sanskrit Buddhist Canon	http://www.dsbcproject.org/	Website that contains digital copies of Buddhist Scriptures.
Buddha Sutra	http://buddhasutra.com/	Buddhist Sutras available in Microsoft Word or PDF formats

ROMAN CATHOLICISM		
Bible.com	https://www.bible.com/versions https://www.bible.com/languages	Electronic Versions of 2,567 bibles in 1,748 languages.
Catholic Charities USA	https://catholiccharitiesusa.org/	Works to welcome and integrate immigrants. Maybe helpful to connect you with a local community to volunteer or provide donations.
The United States Conference of Catholic Bishops	http://www.usccb.org/	Find daily readings. And find a Catholic parish in the United States.
CHRISTIANITY (General)		
Bible.com	https://www.bible.com/versions https://www.bible.com/languages	Electronic Versions of 2,567 bibles in 1,748 languages.
HINDUISM		
Shaivam	https://shaivam.org/temples-of-lordshiva/hindu-temples-in-united-states-of-america-usa	Find Hindu Scriptures and Hindu Temples in the United States.
Devotional India	http://www.devotionalindia.com/Vedas/Download%20Vedas.html	Downloadable scriptures, chanting recordings, and videos.
Hindu Website.Com	http://www.hinduwebsite.com/sacredscripts/hinduism_scripts.asp	Downloadable scriptures and Hindu literature.
ISLAM		
Islamic Finder	https://www.islamicfinder.org/	Information on prayer times by region and time zone in the United States and religious texts.
True Muslims	http://www.truemuslims.net/Quran.html	Free downloads of the Qur'an in dozens of the languages.
Hadith Collection	http://hadithcollection.com/downloads.html	Download the Hadith for free.
Sunnah	https://sunnah.com/	Download the Hadith for free.
	https://jamilhussain.wordpress.com/2010/05/27/complete-hadith-books-in-pdf-format-in-urdu/	Download the Hadith in Urdu for free.

Hartford Institute for Religious Studies	http://hirr.hartsem.edu/mosque/database.html	The Hartford Seminary maintains an online database of all mosques, masjids, and Islamic centers in the United States.
Various	http://www.islamicity.org/free-literature/ http://www.allahsquran.com/free/ http://projectfreequran.com/request-a-free-quran/ http://www.cpsglobal.org/content/order-free-quran-2	Organizations that donate Qur'ans. However, not in large quantities.
USA Halal Chamber of Commerce, Inc.	http://www.ushalalcertification.com/	Provides information about halal food, including what "halal" means and where to order food.
Islamic Food and Nutrition Council of America	http://www.ifanca.org/Pages/Index.aspx	Provides information about halal food, including what "halal" means and where to order food.
Islamic Services of America	http://www.isaiowa.org/	Provides information about halal food, including what "halal" means and where to order food.
Nema Food Company	http://nemahalal.com/who-we-are/	Vender that provides prepackaged certified halal meals and other food snacks.
Halal Farms USA	http://www.halalfarmsusa.com/ServicePage.html	Vender that provides prepackaged certified halal meals and other food snacks.
Midamar Corporation	http://www.midamar.com/Default.aspx	Vender that provides prepackaged certified halal meals and other food snacks.
JUDAISM		
Maven Search	http://www.mavensearch.com/synagogues/synagogues.asp	Lists Jewish synagogues and temples in the United States by state.
The Aleph Institute	https://aleph-institute.org/wp/	Organization known to provide technical guidance on the beliefs and practices of Orthodox Judaism and provides donations of religious items.
Jewish Prisoners	http://jewishprisoner.com/Default.aspx	Organization that provides donations of religious items.
Torah Enlightenment Organization	https://torahenlightenment.org/main.sc	Provides donations of the Torah for free.

Jewish Testimonials	https://www.jewishtestimonies.com/en/order-free-bible/	Provides donations of the Torah for free and available to download.
Mechon-Mamre	http://www.mechon-mamre.org/e/et/et0.htm	Download the Torah in English, French, Portuguese, and Spanish.
Bible Stories	http://hebrew.learnoutlive.com/free-hebrew-bible-download-english-translation/	Download the Torah for free in English.
Jewish Virtual Library	https://www.jewishvirtuallibrary.org/jsource/Judaism/FullTalmud.pdf	Download a PDF of the Talmud in English.
Holy Books.Com	https://holybooks.com/babylonian-talmud-complete-pdf/	Download a PDF of the Talmud in English.
Kosher Supervision of America	http://www.ksaKosher.com	Source for what “kosher” means and where kosher food may be obtained.
OU Kosher	https://ouKosher.org/	Source for what “kosher” means and where kosher food may be obtained.
American Kosher Council	http://www.americanKoshercouncil.com/	Source for what “kosher” means and where kosher food may be obtained.
Kosher Bytes	https://www.Kosherbyte.com/Kosher-gift-baskets/pc/Kosher-Prepared-Meals-are-a-great-time-saver-c19.htm	Vendor that provides pre-packaged Kosher meals and snacks.
Shiloh Farms	http://www.shilohfarms.com/Kosher/	Vendor that provides pre-packaged Kosher meals and snacks.
SANTERÍA		
About Santería	http://www.aboutsanteria.com/	Source that to explain about the religion. Includes Proverbs and a dictionary of key terms.
SIKHISM		
World Gurudwaras	https://www.worldgurudwaras.com/	Sikh gurudwaras in the United States by state
Sikh Coalition	https://www.sikhcoalition.org/	Non-governmental organization that can provide technical guidance on the religion and beliefs and practices.
Global Grey Books	https://www.globalgreybooks.com/shri-guru-granth-sahib-ebook.html	Download the Shri Guru Granth Sahib. The Granth is the central text of Sikhism.

SANTERÍA (Worship of the Saints)

Promising Practices

- Facility tries to locate a religious leader or house of worship that is local. Unfortunately, many adherents believe that they are prohibited from sharing information about the faith with non-believers.
- Speaks directly with the detainee about their religious needs and provides appropriate accommodations consistent with the safety, security, and orderly operation of the facility.
- Speaks with the noncitizens in their care and asks them if there are any important holy days/holidays that the facility should be aware of. This is important because the days/dates for honoring some saints (e.g., Santeria Orisha) are not consistent every year and this information can be difficult to find.

Overview

Reliable data on the number of Santería practitioners in the world is not available as there is no central organization, the religion is often practiced in private, and many practitioners believe they are prohibited from sharing information about their faith with non-believers. However, the largest known population is in Cuba and practitioners are also known to come from the Caribbean, Latin America, and West Africa.

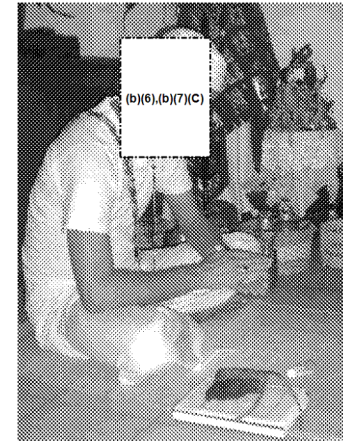
Santería is a syncretic religion, meaning it is a combination of different beliefs and various schools of thought. Santería includes beliefs and practices that originated from Roman Catholicism, African traditional religions, and Latin American (especially Cuban) cultural influences.

- Santería originated with the Yoruba people of West Africa, especially in the areas that are now known as Nigeria, Benin, Niger, Senegal, and Sierra Leone.
- Santería is known by several different names, including: *Brujeria* (witchcraft), *Lukumi* or *Lucumi* from *oluki mi* (which translate to “my friend” in the Yoruba language), *Ifa*, or *Yoruba*.
- Practitioners of Santería may refer to themselves as a Priests or Priestesses (Oloricha), Godchildren, Clients, or note their specific house of worship that are



localized. However, if asked specifically if they practice Santería or one of the other known names as listed above, many will acknowledge they are practitioners of the religion.

- Santería largely arrived in the Latin America from Africa during slavery and the European period of colonization between 1820 and 1840.
- Santería largely arrived/began to be practiced in the United States during three distinct periods: in the late 1950s following the Communist revolution in Cuba; in the 1950s and 1960s during segregation and the Civil Rights Movement; and in 1980 with the emigration of Cubans, generally known as the Mariel Boat Lift.
- Santería is an ever-evolving religion. However, the foundation of Santería, based on the African Yoruba people, includes:
 - A universe that is visible (*Aye*) and invisible (*Orun*). *Aye* and *Orun* live in harmony. There cannot be one without the other. *Aye* and *Orun* act in harmony to create a balance.
 - *Aye* includes people, plants and animals, and natural and manufactured goods/items.
 - *Orun* includes *Olodumare* (the Creator), *Orisha* (the Divinities), *Egun* (the Ancestors):
 - *Olodumare*
 - *Olodumare* is the Supreme Being, Creator, sustainer of the universe.
 - *Olodumare* is the personification of *ashé*, an intangible force in the universe, which includes:
 - Energy, power, and blessings.
 - Power to make things happen.
 - Ability to effect changes toward better or worse.
 - Ritually empowered material (e.g., consecrated religious items). Rituals involve the movement of *ashé*.
 - *Olodumare* is the source of the *Orisha* (any of the deities of the Yoruba people).
 - *Olodumare* is often invoked as trinity:
 - *Olodumare* (great God)
 - *Olofi* (supreme ruler)
 - *Olorun* (owner of heaven)
 - *Orisha*
 - *Orisha* are the guardians over certain aspects of human life. They are viewed as deities to be worshipped. There are hundreds of *Orisha*, however, a smaller number are viewed as the most important to venerate.
 - *Orisha* have personal likes and dislikes, therefore, offerings of items are based on the *Orisha*'s preferences.



- *Orisha* possess and express a certain quality or characteristic of *Olodumare*.
- *Orisha* have total control over nature.
- *Orisha* is also viewed as the manifestation of the one God, therefore, relationship between the practitioner and the *Orisha* is paramount in the practice of Santería
- The *Orisha* consist of two groups:
 - Warriors (*Odde*), which includes the deities of *Eleggua*, *Ogun*, and *Ochosi*; and
 - Kings & Queens, which includes *Obatala*, *Shango/Chango*, *Oya*, *Yemaya*, *Oshun*, *Babalú Aye*, and *Orunmila/Orula*.
- *Egun*
 - *Egun* (the Ancestors) honors both an earthly and a religious ancestry line.
 - *Egun* protect, guide and act on one's behalf
 - *Egun* shrines must be near water and the earth, and the location must be separate and distinct from *Orisha* shrines
 - *Egun* must be honored with food offerings, drinks, flowers, prayers, cigar smoke, water, coconut, or any offering that practitioners believe the *Egun* would be pleased by.
- There are positive (*iré*) and negative (*ibi*) forces in the universe.
- There is no inherently evil person or being. Therefore, there is no belief in *the Devil*.
- All people, things, and events must be judged according to circumstances.
 - People have potential for being good and bad.
 - Those that are found worthy by the *Orisha* can be reincarnated following death.
 - *Ori* – Everyone has a destiny before being born, at birth you forgot it, through divination you find it again. Divination is a sacred ritual and an essential part of Santería because it's how practitioners receive advice and guidance from the *Orisha* or *Egun*. Only priests and priestesses of Santería can do divination because it requires the use of divination tools that have been properly consecrated and requires intensive training and follows very specific procedures. Priests and priestesses of Santería interprets what the *Orisha* have to say for other practitioners.

Prayers

There are no official churches or temples in the religion, however, localized houses of worship or affiliation are common.

There is no written scripture; it is an oral religion passed on from generation to generation.

Santería practitioners worship and/or venerate hundreds of *Orisha*. However, when an individual is initiated into Santería, a priest or priestess of their house assigns a particular *Orisha* as their personal guide in the *Universe*. Given *Orisha* serve different purposes (in a similar way that Roman Catholicism have patron saints), worship, rituals, and offerings will vary. *Orisha* have personal likes and dislikes, therefore, offerings of items are based on the *Orisha*'s preferences. For example,

Eleggua is generally offered male chickens, rum, cigars, coconuts, popcorn, smoked fish, toys, candy, and/or fruits; *Ogun* is offered roosters, pigeons, green plantains, rum, cigars, toys, and/or white beans; and *Obatala* is generally offered cotton, cascarilla, yams, white doves, coconut, milk, rice – all white foods.

Practitioners will generally create an alter to their personal *Orisha* (assigned to them upon initiation).

Worship in Santería consists of various rituals (*Rogacion*). All rituals are preceded by a ritual cleansing of the body, especially the head, by the *bembe* (drum party). The *bembe* calls the *Orisha* to the presence of the practitioners and they generally dance to the drum beat until they are in trance, which indicates the *Orisha* have arrived and has taken over the body and soul of the practitioner.

At each ritual worship practitioners will make offerings to the *Orisha* that is being venerated. Rituals are highly personalized by the practitioner, the house of worship they were practice in, and/or the location of the world they come from.

Prayer Times

There is no prescribed time when Santería practitioners are required to venerate an *Orisha* or *Egun*.

Daily worship is not required, but practitioners may choose to do so. Practitioners can perform private prayers and offerings. They do not need to be in

communal setting. Weekly worship is also not required, but many practitioners will gather on Sunday and worship. Some may also prefer communal worship.

Prayer Direction, Dress, and Items

There is no specific direction that practitioners are required to face in worship. Additionally, there are no specific requirements for direction or set-up of a shrine.

When first initiated into the faith, Santería practitioners are required to wear all white for at least one week. This includes white clothes and cap that cover the legs and head. Women generally wear a full-length white lace dress that covers their legs. Many Santería practitioners will wear all white even after the initiation period has ended, especially when worshipping.



"Santería Havana Cuba" by Jorgeroyan is licensed under CC BY-SA 3.0.

Some women may carry a white fabric/lace umbrella to ensure their head is covered at all times.

During all rituals, including consecration to the religion, practitioners must cover their heads either with a cap, kerchief, or a head-covering referred to as a *keel*. The *keel* is made of fabric that is cut into triangle shapes and sewn together and embroidered. The triangle geometric shapes symbolize balance and union and is necessary to wear to defeat and protect one from their enemies.

Women also generally will wear a skirt and apron which also represents protection, femininity, and symbolically pays respect to female elders.

There are numerous religious items that are used in addition to offerings made by practitioners to their designated *Orisha*.

During the *bembe* (drum party) the *aña batá* drum (*iyá*) is used. It is normally adorned with *bante* (a beaded cloth), *chagüoró* bells on the larger end, and *chagüori* bells on the smaller end. *Aña batá* are carved from a single piece of wood and are tensioned with either leather or rope.

There are various items used by Priests and Priestesses for divination rituals. In Cuba, the rituals are called a *consulta* (consultation) or a *registro* (check-up). Typically, a person experiencing a problem or who feels anxiety or uncertainty will ask a priest or priestess to conduct a divination ritual to get guidance and help. The guidance or help requested can be on any matter or concern the practitioner has, including physical ailment or illness, mental and emotional health, money, work, relationships with other people, or legal issues. The priests and priestess will use several items during the rituals:

- *Dilogún/ Diloggún* (consecrated cowrie shells);

- A coconut or coconut rinds;
- A weaved straw mat;
- An *okuele* (large necklace with 6 or 8 rinds of coconut).

Individually, a practitioner will also wear a necklace (*elekes*) representing the colors pleasing to their designated *Orisha* and they will generally carry a photo of their *Orisha* with them.

Congregate worship always includes the following:

- A small altar (trono) and/or shrine(boveda).
- Up to three drums or *bata* (sacred ritual drums): the *iya* (the mother drum), the *itotele* (the middle-sized drum), and the *okonkolou* (the small drum).
- Beaded gourds (shakeres).
- Colorful flower arrangements (artificial flowers are permissible).
- One or two cigars.
- *Cascarrilla* (eggshell powder).
- Smoked fish powder.
- *Manteca de corajo*.
- Incense.
- At least four coconut rinds.
- 21 cowrie shells.
- White cloth covering for the altar/shrine.
- Nine water glasses.
- A shell or dish for burning tobacco.
- Inexpensive small statues of the *Orisha*.
- Small bells attached to colored ribbons and fixed to a staff or pole the size of a broomstick.
- A small amount of citrus-scented water.

Holy Days

As described, Santería incorporates numerous traditional Roman Catholic observances, including honoring the particular Roman Catholic saint whom the *Orisha* embodies. However, the day/date that Santería practitioners honor the saints may be different from the Roman Catholic day/date of veneration. This list includes, but is not limited to:

- Ogun: Saint Peter.
- Oya: Candelaria/ Saint Teresa.
- Ochagrinan: Saint Joseph.
- Aguema: Our Lady of Immaculate Conception.
- Orichaoko: Saint Isodore.
- Ochosi: Saint Norbert.
- Ellegua: Saint Anthony of Padua.
- Aganyu-Sola: Saint Christopher.
- Yewa: Saint Clare.
- Yemaya: Our Lady of Regla.

- Obatala, sometimes named Osshun: Virgin of Mercy, Protector of Cuba.
- Los Ibeyi: Ss. Cosmas and Damian.
- Orunla: Saint Francis Assisi.
- Dada: Our Lady of the Rosary.
- Inle: Archangel Raphael.
- Chango: Saint Barbara.
- Babalu-Aye: Saint Lazarus.
- Osain: Saint Sylvester/Saint Ambrose.

The feasts of Obatala (September 24th annually), Ellegua (can either be January 6th and/or June 13th), and Chango (December 4th) are common days of celebration. The community may request to have ceremonial meals on one or more of these days.

Meals

There are no specific religious meal requirements. However, some practitioners may request additional food items to make offerings to their *Orisha*. Some may require the items for them to consume themselves or to place in a shrine.

ADDITIONAL REFERENCE

Facility staff should first contact local ERO field staff with any questions. Additional questions regarding standards as they apply to religious accommodations, holiday guidance, best practices, etc. can be directed to the National Religious Services Coordinator at **(b)(7)(E)**@ice.dhs.gov.

The ERO Religious Practice Accommodation Resource Center page (**(b)(7)(E)**) provides additional resources, including official policy and guidance, ICE ERO Broadcasts, fact sheets, and Religious Practices Accommodations training.

Versions of the ICE National Detention Standards are available at: **(b)(7)(E)**

The Religious Practices Accommodations reference manual and addendum is intended only to provide background on some of the religions represented in ICE/ERO facilities. It does not provide information on all sects of the religions mentioned in the document, or of all religions that may be practiced by people in ICE/ERO facilities. The intent is to provide resources, guidance, and promising practices on accommodating religious practices. This manual and addendum provide supplementary information to ICE Detention Standards and should not be construed as new policy or contractual obligations.

NOTES

Lined area for notes, consisting of two columns of horizontal lines.

NOTES

Lined area for notes, consisting of two columns of horizontal lines.



U.S. Immigration
and Customs
Enforcement