



U.S. Immigration
and Customs
Enforcement

ICE | ERO

CUSTODY MANAGEMENT

CUSTODY PROGRAMS DIVISION

SPECIAL POPULATIONS AND PROGRAMS UNIT

ISLAM

Religious Beliefs & Practices of Muslims

May 2020



This training will cover:

- Background on Islam
- Beliefs and Practices
- Overview of Religious Accommodations and Services.
- Commonly Raised Questions and Concerns:
Religious Diets, Property, and Worship.

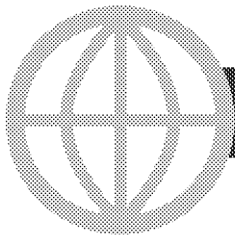


According to the Pew Research Center, there are nearly 2 billion Muslims in the world, or roughly a quarter of the world's population.

Adherents of Islam are the fastest growing population in size and location diversity in the world. In 2010, Pew estimated the Muslim population by region : North America (3.5 million); Latin America (850,000); Europe (43.5 million); Middle East and North Africa (317 million); Sub-Saharan Africa (250 million); and the Asia-Pacific region (1 billion).

The 10 Countries that Have the Highest Muslim Populations in the World:

- Indonesia
- India
- Pakistan
- Bangladesh
- Nigeria
- Egypt
- Iran
- Turkey
- Algeria
- Iraq



There are an estimated 3.45 million Muslims living in the United States



Anecdotally Christians (especially Roman Catholics and Protestants) represent the largest faith group in ICE ERO detention.

However, the Muslim population is believed to represent the second largest faith group in ICE detention.

Detainees from the Middle East, Indian Sub-Continent, North Africa and Sub-Saharan Africa, and Southeast Asia are represented across the ICE-network of facilities.



“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.”

PBNDS 2011 (Revised 2016)

– Similar language appears in all versions of ICE detention standards:

Given the global diversity of Muslims, including their race, ethnicity, language, and cultural and social norms, Muslims may interpret their faith requirements differently. Therefore traditional or mainline theology and dogma, may not be uniformly accepted, practiced, or believed by all individuals that identify as Muslim.

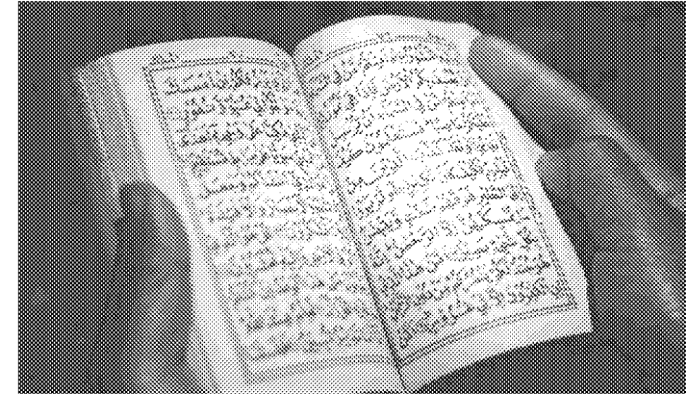


Along with Judaism and Christianity, Islam is one of the three Abrahamic faiths.

- Followers of Islam are called **Muslims**.
- **Friday** is Islam's holy day. Like Sunday is to Christians and Saturday is to Jews.
- The religion of Islam and its holy book, the Qur'an, were revealed to the Prophet Muhammad in the 7th century.
- The **Qur'an** is Islam's holy book. Muslims believe that the Qur'an is the literal word of God, as revealed by the Angel Gabriel to the Prophet Muhammad.
- The **Hadith** is also sacred in Islam. The Hadith is a collection of books that are believed by Muslims to contain narratives of deeds and sayings of the Prophet Muhammad.
- The **Five Pillars of Islam** are the foundation and framework of the faith.
 - **Shahadah**: The profession of faith – There is only one God, and the Prophet Muhammad is his final messenger.
 - **Salat**: Ritual prayer, five times a day.
 - **Zakat**: Almsgiving to benefit the poor and the needy.
 - **Sawm**: Fasting during the month of Ramadan.
 - **Hajj**: Pilgrimage to Mecca, required at least once in a Muslim's lifetime, assuming he or she has the financial and physical ability to do so.



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Treatment of the Qur'an

Muslims hold the Qur'an in the highest regard and treat it with deep respect. Muslims often expect non-Muslims, especially adherents of Judaism and Christianity, as the other Abrahamic faiths, to treat it with similar respect and care.

Islamic law prescribes the following rules for the treatment of the Qur'an:

- For non-Muslims to handle the Qur'an, they must have washed their hands. Muslims should only handle the Qur'an after Wudhu or shower.
- Qur'an should never touch the ground.
- Qur'an should never be taken into a bathroom.
- Qur'an should be kept in a clean and respectable place.
- No item should ever sit on top of a Qur'an.
- A worn-out copy of the Qur'an that has a broken binding or missing pages should be disposed of in one of three ways: Wrapped in a clean cotton cloth and buried; placed in clean flowing water until the paper is dissolved; or burned until only ashes are left (some denominations of Islam do not accept the burning option).



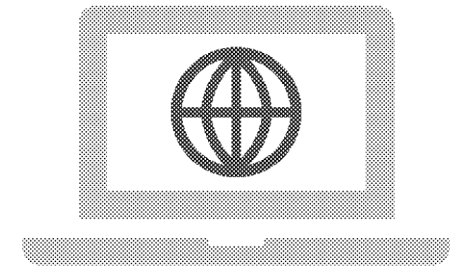
If a facility is having a difficult time finding the Qur'an or Hadith in a particular language - There are websites that offer them in numerous languages that can be downloaded onto computers or tablets.

Websites for the Qur'an

- <http://www.truemuslims.net/Quran.html>
- <http://www.qurandownload.com/>

Websites for the Hadith

- <http://hadithcollection.com/downloads.html>
- <https://sunnah.com/>
- <https://jamilhussain.wordpress.com/2010/05/27/complete-hadith-books-in-pdf-format-in-urdu/>



Also, there are a handful of organizations that are known for donating Qur'ans:

- <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>



The second pillar of Islam, *Salat*: Requires Muslims to pray five-times a day.

1. *Salat al-fajr*: dawn, just before sunrise
2. *Salat al-zuhr*: midday, after the sun passes its highest point of the day
3. *Salat al-'asr*: late afternoon
4. *Salat al-maghrib*: just after sunset
5. *Salat al-'isha*: between sunset and midnight

Prayer times are specific and tied to the location of the sun. Therefore, the times change daily and differ by time zones. Daily prayer times by time zones can be found here:

- <https://www.islamicfinder.org/>
- <http://irusa.org/prayer-times/>
- <http://muslimsprayertimes.com/>



- Muslims must pray in the qibla (direction) of Mecca, Islam's holiest city and the location of the Kaaba. Muslims believe the Kaaba is Islam's first house of worship and was built by Ibrahim (Abraham) and Ismail (the son of Ibrahim and Hājar (Hagar) on Allah's instructions.
 - For those in the United States that is directionally east.
- Muslims are required to remove their shoes before entering a mosque, and most remove their shoes no matter where they pray.
- During prayers, no individual should cross in front of a Muslim.
- Most Muslims will require and likely express that:
 - Praying in a group setting, especially on Friday for Jummah prayers, is essential.
 - They be provided a quiet and peaceful room for prayers.
 - That non-Muslims not be present.
 - Once prayers have begun that they not be interrupted. As this will nullify the required prayer, and be perceived to be an offense to God (Allah)





- Prayers must be conducted on a clean surface, such as a **prayer rug**.
 - The surface must only be used for prayer purposes.
 - A carpeted room is **not** sufficient.
 - A clean yoga mat or clean towel may be satisfactory for some Muslims, while others will require a prayer rug or a new towel or mat.
- Head-covering - A skull cap, called a ***kufi*** for men and simple scarf or ***hijab*** for women.
- Loose fitting clothing to allow them to complete the prostrations unhindered.
- **Prayer-beads**, referred to as *misbaha*, *tasbih* or *sibha* in Islam
- A copy of the Qur'an



- Prior to prayers, Muslims must perform the *Wudhu*, a ritual cleansing of the hands, face, arms, and feet with water.
 - The *Wudhu* must occur in a clean area, which preferably is near the prayer space, to avoid nullifying the cleaning.
- A shower can replace the *Wudhu* if it occurs immediately before the prayers.
 - For many Muslims, a shower is required if they believe they are especially unclean. Unclean can mean various things, from actual dirt and filth, to impure thoughts, to open cuts, or because they recently used the lavatory.
 - Women who are menstruating generally do not offer prayers.
- Many Muslims believe that a full shower is required on Friday before they offer *Jummah* prayers.



- Chaplain/Religious Services Coordinators (RSC) post daily prayer times in the facility chapel, housing units, dining hall, or other appropriate places.
- Chaplain/RSC makes the chapel or other designated space available to detainees for prayers and/or religious study.
- In housing units, chapels, or other areas where Muslims are allowed/inclined to offer prayers, Chaplain/RSC posts a sign that designates the direction of the Kaaba (see slide 10 for definition)
 - For those in the United States that is directionally east.
- Facility prayer rugs/mats are kept in a clean space and are clearly marked to indicate that they are for Islamic prayers only and may not be used for any other purpose.
- Facilities avoid scheduling meal-times or dorm checks during prayer times.



“When a detainee’s religion requires special food services, daily or during certain holy days or periods that involve fasting, restricted diets, etc., staff shall make all reasonable efforts to accommodate those requirements (e.g., by modifying the detainee’s menus to exclude certain foods or food combinations or providing the detainee’s meals at unusual hours).”

PBNDS 2011 (Revised 2016). Similar language appears in all ICE detention standards.



- The Arabic word halal translates to permissible or lawful.
- The concept of halal food is generally misunderstood to be related to food deriving from pigs and alcohol consumption only.

Religious obligations for Muslims with respect to food are significantly more complex:

Islamic law prescribes the following for meat, and therefore the entire meal to be permissible:

- The slaughter of an animal must be conducted by a sane adult Muslim.
- Just prior to killing an animal, the slaughterer must say the *Basmala*, also known by its incipit, *Bismillah*, or 'In the name of God.'
- The animal's trachea, esophagus, and at least two blood arteries must be cut with a sharp and washed knife in a single and swift movement. The spinal cord must not be severed.
- The killing of one animal must not be done in the presence of another animal.
- The animal must be allowed to fully bleed out.



According to Islamic law, the meat of an animal that was ritualistically killed as prescribed in the previous slide, will only remain Halal if it is processed, made, stored, served, and consumed using equipment, dishes, and utensils consistent with Islamic law. This includes, but is not limited to:

- Dishes, cutting boards, knives, etc., must be washed thoroughly before use, and they cannot simultaneously be used for other meal preparation.
- It is permissible to use one piece of equipment (i.e., an oven or microwave) to cook both halal and non-halal items. However, then:
 - The equipment must be cleaned before halal and non-halal (Haram) items are put in;
 - Halal and other prepared foods must be cooked in separate dishes to ensure they never come in contact and that meat juices do not mix; and
 - Halal items should be placed on a higher shelf than non-halal items to

ICE detention standards on the Common Fare meal plan, if in total compliance will fit the religious needs of Muslims. However, Muslims may not trust that there was no cross-contamination. Therefore, they may reject the meal.



Food items that are generally considered vegetarian, such as bread, fruits, and vegetables, are often viewed as halal, but may not always be the case if these food items are cooked with the following:

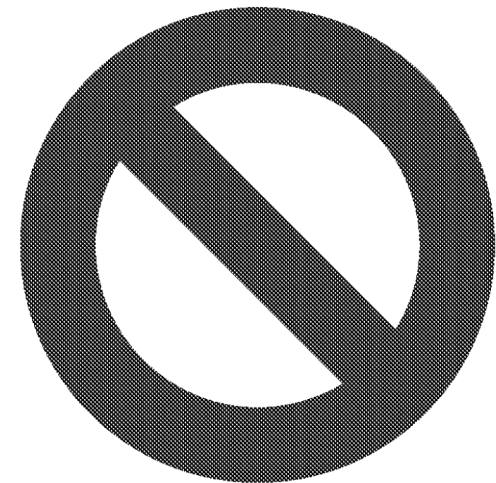
- Butter substitutes. Most of these contain rendered fat from animals. Rendered fat derived from pigs is always haram. Rendered fat from any animal that was not ritualistically slaughtered as prescribed above is haram.
- Any item made with alcohol, including vanilla extract and some soy sauces.
- Additives that include any of the following:
 - Cochineal/Carmine, as this coloring is isolated from crushed insects;
 - Gelatin, which is derived from bones, often from pigs; and
 - Riboflavin (Vitamin B2), which is often derived from the pig liver and kidney.

Raw fruits, vegetables, nuts, salads, pasta, and rice are always halal, unless they have come in contact with non-halal (Haram/forbidden) items. This is especially relevant for facilities that utilize the Common Fare meal plan as a substitute or the basis for accommodating halal meal requests.



Per Islamic law some food items are always considered haram/forbidden.

- Any animal not slaughtered according to Islamic rites. (Fish is exempt from the slaughtering ritual described above);
- Alcohol, items cooked with alcohol, and ingredients that have alcohol in them, such as vanilla extract and some soy sauces;
- Pigs and all pig by-products;
- Crustaceans, except for ocean shrimp (because they feed on ocean algae)
 - Some Muslims now interpret farm-raised shrimp and fish as haram because of human intervention in how they are being raised, which is inconsistent with Islamic beliefs on how animals should be treated in life.





These organizations can be valuable resources in providing further information about halal food, including what halal means and where to order food:

- USA Halal Chamber of Commerce, Inc. - <http://www.ushalalcertification.com/>
- Islamic Food and Nutrition Council of America - <http://www.ifanca.org/Pages/Index.aspx>
- Islamic Services of America - <http://www.isaiowa.org/>

Some of the vendors that provide pre-packaged halal food include:

- Nema Food Company: <http://nemahalal.com/who-we-are/>
- Halal Farms USA: <http://www.halalfarmsusa.com/ServicePage.html>
- Midamar Corporation: <http://www.midamar.com/Default.aspx>

Food producers have adopted symbols to label their halal food items. Some of the most common ones in the United States include:





Similar language is included in all ICE detention standards (NDS 2000 and 2019, PBNDS 2008, 2011 and 2011 (Revised 2016)):

“Each facility shall have in place written policy and procedures to facilitate detainee observance of important holy days, consistent with the safety, security and orderly operation of the facility, and the chaplain or religious services coordinator shall work with detainees to accommodate proper observances.”
(PBNDS 2011 (Revised 2016))

Each holy day/holiday brings its own unique challenges, including, but not limited to, detainees who will fast, request specialty worship items or specific foods, need extra time to worship, and be prohibited from travelling.



Major Islamic Holy Days - *Ramadan*

- Ramadan is among the most religiously significant times of the year for Muslims. Ramadan, which occurs in the ninth month of the Islamic (lunar) calendar, celebrates the first revelations by God to the Prophet Muhammad. God's revelations to the Prophet make up the Qur'an.
- Ramadan is a month of introspection, communal prayers, and Qur'anic study. The month is marked by fasting and strict prohibitions. From dawn to dusk, Muslims refrain from all food, water, sexual activity, and immoral behavior and thoughts.
- Ramadan begins and ends with the appearance of the new moon. Therefore, in the Gregorian Calendar, Ramadan will be about 11 days earlier each year. Because the first and final days of Ramadan depend on the sighting of the moon, the first and last days technically cannot be known more than 24 hours in advance. Therefore, facility staff should check online resources, such as the Islamic Society of North America (<http://www.isna.net/>), to confirm the beginning and end of Ramadan.
- The Qur'an excuses Muslims from fasting if they are ill or travelling, and for women, if they are pregnant or menstruating. The Qur'an prescribes that fasting days missed during the month of Ramadan should be made up later in the year and should be equal to the days missed, and the number of fasting days should be observed continuously. Not all Muslims will forgo fasting even if religious dogma allows for it and not all will fast precisely as the dogma prescribes.



Meals

- It is likely that at least one meal will fall outside of regularly scheduled meal times and/or during times that the kitchen staff are not working.
 - It is recommended that ICE ERO and facility staff coordinate to ensure that detainees receive the three meals with the equivalent nutritional value they would ordinarily receive. Sack meals may be appropriate and necessary. However, it is recommended that a variety of meals be available throughout the month. It also is recommended that microwaves be made available so detainees can prepare prepackaged frozen meals or items purchased from the commissary.

Medication

- It is recommended that the facility medical staff be alerted of Muslims that will be observing Ramadan in the event that medical staff need to adjust medication distribution either for an individual or facility's Muslim population.

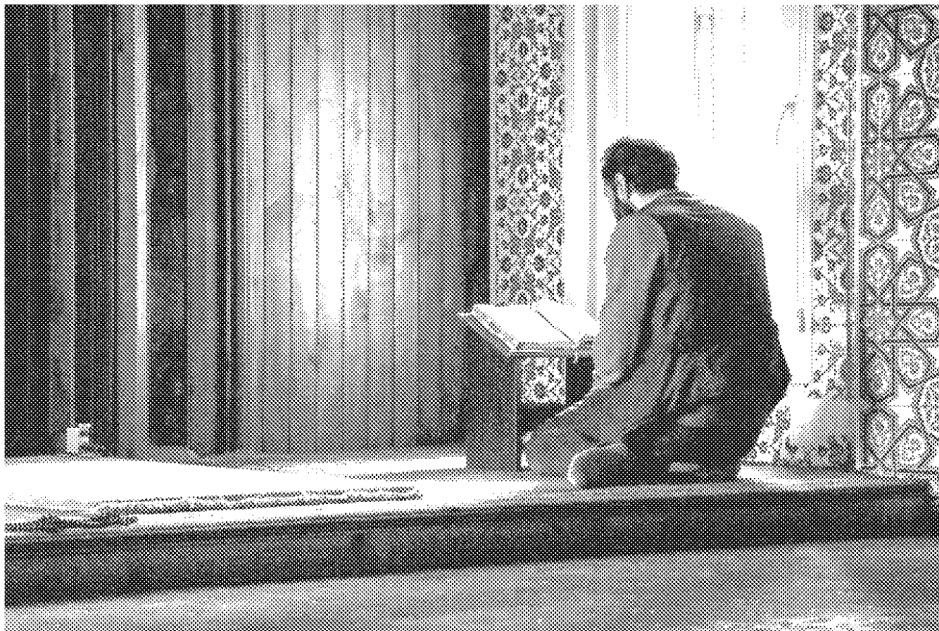
Travel

- During the hours of fasting during Ramadan, some Muslims believe they are prohibited from travelling. ICE ERO and facilities may receive requests from detainee accordingly.



The following are the most common requests Muslims make during Ramadan:

- Additional time for worship or Qur'anic study. As a group and individually.
- A designated location, separate from other detainees, to eat their meals, as well as being excused from regular meal times so they do not have to observe others eating when they cannot.



- Medication allocation occur before sunrise or after sunset to accommodate their refraining from ingesting any item.
- Dates (the fruit) – It is believed that the Prophet Muhammad ate dates when he concluded each daily fast and on Eid ul-Fitr.
- An Eid ul-Fitr celebration –A gathering of all Muslims, in a group.

It is recommended that ICE ERO accommodate these requests unless there is compelling reason not to, such as, a documentable safety or security concern.



- Facility provides detainees sufficient time to complete their morning meals and hygienic needs (i.e., brushing teeth and showering) before dawn breaks, and the day of fasting commences.
- Provide available and private space for prayers and Qur'anic studies. In addition to the five daily prayers, which are constant throughout the year, many Muslims will spend the entire month in almost a constant state of prayer or Qur'anic study.
- Facility staff, including the Chaplain and Food Services staff, work together in advance of Ramadan to determine if meal times need to be altered for certain detainees, or if sack lunches or other options can accommodate the needs of fasting detainees.
- If possible, make available specific food items for breaking the fast. Muslims believe that the Prophet Muhammad broke his fast with dates, water, and sweetened milk.
- Facility staff, including the Chaplain and Health Services staff, work together in advance of Ramadan to determine if medicine disbursement times need to be altered.



Other Major Islamic Holy Days:

Eid al-Fitr

Eid al-Fitr marks the end of Ramadan and is the first day of the 10th month of the Islamic calendar. *Eid* is generally celebrated for up to three days. Large communal feasts are standard during the celebration regardless of how many days the celebration continues.

Eid al-Adha

Eid al-Adha, also known as the Feast of the Sacrifice, honors the willingness of the Prophet Abraham to sacrifice his son to show his obedience and reverence to God. It always begins on the 10th day of the 12th month of the Islamic calendar and lasts through sunset on the 13th day of the month. During this time, Muslims engage in extensive prayers and Qur'anic study. Islamic communal prayer for *Eid al-Adha* should be scheduled for mid-morning, a few hours after sunrise.

Ashura

For *Shi'a* Muslims, Ashura commemorates the death of Husayn ibn Ali, the grandson of the Prophet Muhammad, at the Battle of Karbala. For *Shi'a* Muslims, Ashura is not a celebration, but a significant time of sorrow and introspection. For Sunni Muslims, Ashura marks the day that Moses and the Israelites were saved from the Egyptian Pharaoh by God parting the Red Sea.

Ashura occurs on the 10th day of the 1st month of the Islamic calendar. Some Muslims will mark Ashura with a day of fasting from dusk to dawn. *Shi'a* Muslims may offer additional prayers and engage in Qur'anic study.



The ICE ERO Religious Accommodation Reference Manual and Religious Holiday Guide Has Loads of Valuable Information and Promising Practices.



ENFORCEMENT AND REMOVAL OPERATIONS (ERO)
OFFICE PROGRAMS DIVISION (OPD)

RELIGIOUS PRACTICES ACCOMMODATIONS

REFERENCE MANUAL



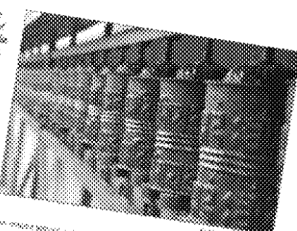
U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement

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BUDDHISM
Promising Practices and Resquiries

- Includes an e-View Buddhist handbook page regarding permits, including permission, absence of religious tests at sites
- **Permits**
 - A list of Buddhist temples in the United States can be found here: www.buddhisttemples.com/
 - **Permitting**
 - www.dhs.gov/xgov/gen/0,,_content=103201,00.html
 - www.dhs.gov/xgov/gen/0,,_content=103201,00.html
 - www.dhs.gov/xgov/gen/0,,_content=103201,00.html
- **Facilities**
 - Facilities must meet health department regulatory plans of the building, building codes, and fire codes. See the ERO website for more information regarding religious worship.
 - Facilities must meet local fire codes.

Overview
According to the New America Center in 2010 there were about 48 million Buddhists in the world or about 7.2% of the global population. There were 500,000 Buddhists in the United States. The majority of Buddhists in the United States are of Asian descent. The majority of Buddhists in the United States are of Asian descent. The majority of Buddhists in the United States are of Asian descent.

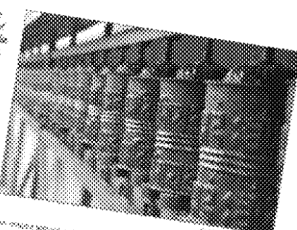


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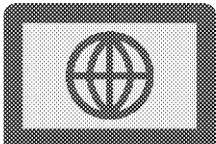
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You can access the ICE ERO Religious Practices Accommodation Reference Manual, Religious Holiday Guide and other information at the ICE inSight ERO Religious Practice Accommodation Resource Center (RPA RC):



<https://insight.ice.dhs.gov/ero/custody/Pages/rparc.aspx>

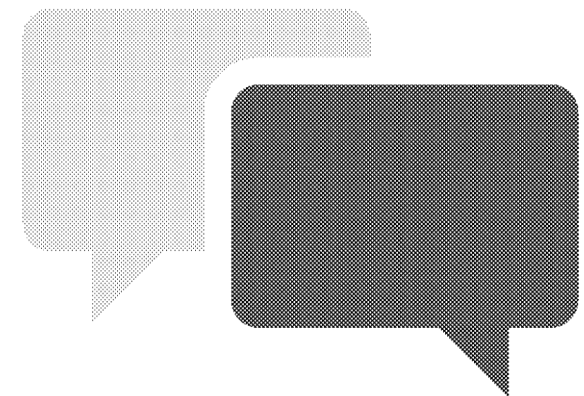
Or request a PDF copy by emailing:

(b)(7)(E)

[@ice.dhs.gov](mailto:____@ice.dhs.gov)



The National Religious
Services Coordination Team
is available to assist with religious
practices accommodation questions!





FOR INFORMATION OR GUIDANCE CONTACT:

(b)(6), (b)(7)(C)



202.732 (b)(6), (b)(7)(C)



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

or **(b)(7)(E)** @ice.dhs.gov

- ICE ERO National Religious Practices Coordinator.
- Consistent with ICE Detention Standards and applicable federal laws, I provide guidance to ensure that the detainees in custody can practice their religion, and have access to religious services and programming.
- I update the InSight ERO Religious Practice Accommodation Resources Center:



<https://insight.ice.dhs.gov/ero/custody/Pages/rparc.aspx>