

Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department
INFORMATIONAL BULLETIN
Custody Services Division



Custody Support Services

Bulletin #2014-03

Muslim Religious Services

INTRODUCTION

The purpose of this informational bulletin is to ensure consistency throughout Custody Services Division regarding Muslim religious services, authorized allowable material provided for these services, and to prevent these materials from being accidentally destroyed or discarded. The following procedures have been established for Custody Services Division.

POLICIES AND PROCEDURES

In compliance with the California Code of Regulations Title 15 and Custody Division Manual section 5-13/100.00, "Religious Programs," all facilities shall adhere to the following guidelines regarding Muslim services:

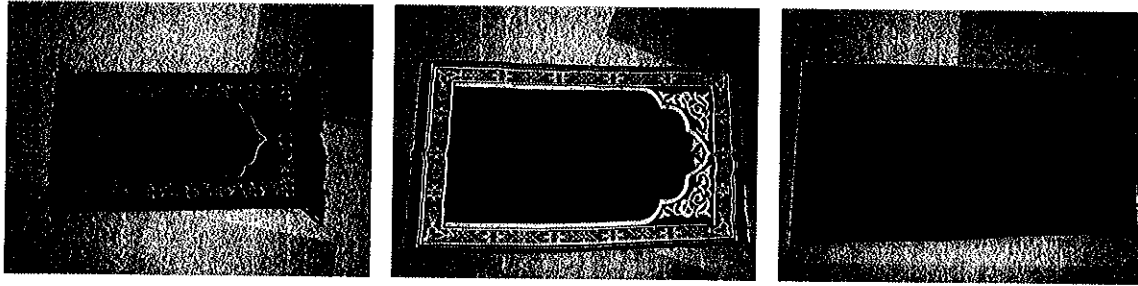
Muslim services will be scheduled on Fridays between 1200 and 1400 hours. Muslim services will be facilitated by a volunteer Imam Chaplain. Custody Services Division currently has eight (8) Imam Chaplains who will help facilitate services at all custody facilities.

In the event that an Imam Chaplain is not available, a Chaplain or religious volunteer of any faith may facilitate an inmate led prayer service.

The Muslim religion requires the use of prayer rugs and Kufi caps during the service. In an effort to accommodate these requirements, Custody Services Division has approved the use of the following items during religious services:

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PRAYER RUGS



Custody Services Division Executives have inspected the current standard prayer rug (made from the same blue material used for inmate uniforms), and two proposed rugs (one nylon and one woven) that were supplied by a Muslim Cleric. Custody Services Division Executives have approved both alternate rugs. The nylon rugs fold neatly into a small pouch and can be kept in the inmate's cell. The nylon rugs are only approved for use inside an inmate's assigned housing location and during the allotted time of the Muslim Religious Services. Woven rugs are only approved for use at congregational prayer meetings and shall not to be kept by inmates. The woven rugs will be monitored and maintained by a Muslim Chaplain. Both the woven rugs and nylon rugs will be provided by the Muslim Chaplains at no cost to the County.

KUFI CAPS



Muslim inmates may wear the Kufi cap as required by their religion; however, the black cotton Kufi cap pictured is the only Kufi cap approved by Custody Services Division executives. The Kufi cap is only approved for use inside an inmate's assigned housing location and during the allotted time of the Muslim religious services. Although it may be in their possession, the Kufi cap is not to be worn anywhere outside of an inmate's housing location, or at any other time other than noted above. The caps are provided by the Muslim Clerics at no cost to the County.

Please keep in mind that we are not allowing inmates to participate in religious services only as a courtesy, the Department is required to do so per federal and state statutes. All inmates have the legal right to attend services and all requests for religious passes MUST be given the same priority as all other passes.

If you have any questions, please contact the Office of Religious and Volunteer Services at (213) 974-8086.