

Date: March 20, 2001
To: Superintendents
From: Nick Armenakis, Assistant Director
Steve Ickes, Assistant Director
Subject: Wicca Materials

Wicca is a recognized religion within the Department of Corrections since at least 1992. Until now, however, Religious Services has found it difficult to recruit volunteers to help organize Wicca services. Recently Religious Services has been able to recruit 3 Wicca volunteers to help us out and Religious Services has successfully introduced Wicca services at OSP. Through a religious and security review process the following items have been cleared by Religious Services and Security staff at OSP to be kept in a locked and secured closet for use in corporate Wicca services:

- (2) 6"-8" Statues
- 2"-8" Sea Shell
- (4) 6"-8" Candles with holders
- (2) Candle Holders
- 18" Black and White Stick
- Normal Size Hand Fan
- (5) Table Size Altar Cloth Various Colors
- Wicker Basket for Bread
- Robe and Rope Belt (like a priest's vestment)
- 6" Stick Incense w/Small Wooden Holder
- Sea Salt
- 1"-2" Carved Stone (could be larger)
- (2) 10" Challis (glass or pottery)
- 18" Red Stick
- Bread and Grape juice (provided by Food Services)
- Books (quantity will depend on donations and available space)

In addition the following items were cleared for the volunteer to bring in for services on an in and out basis: a knotted rope belt (this is a personal item and so will be carried in and out), notes and service notes.

To insure consistency within each institution about how we organize religious services please work with your assigned chaplain and security manager to insure that the items listed above are allowed in the chapel area under the supervision of the chaplain. Religious Services is currently working with its Wicca volunteers and among the chaplains to consider whether we need to allow any additional religious items for personal use in cells. At present, the only Wicca item that is available on the canteen is a pentacle.

Wicca books and literature are permitted in chapel libraries in a manner consistent with all other denominational literature. Tom O'Connor on behalf of Religious Services and Rich

Holder on behalf of the mailroom are currently reviewing our practices for how we deal with Wicca written materials which have often been rejected in the past because of code issues. Any questions or concerns about Wicca practices or materials in the institutions need always be addressed to the chaplains who will then communicate with Tom O'Connor, Administer of Religious Services for guidance.

We would like to develop greater consistency of religious practices within the Department. As Religious Services continues to develop its programming to both mainstream and minority faith traditions, we will keep you informed.