

Jim Pillen, Governor

Policy Directive 026-013

DATE: July 27, 2026

TO: NDCS Agency

FROM: Rob Jeffreys, Director

RE: Policy 208.01 Religious Services

Effective July 28, 2026 the following changes will be in effect concerning Policy 208.01 *Religious Services*. This revision will be incorporated into this policy during the next scheduled review. You may contact Assistant Director Sabatka-Rine with questions regarding this change.

Page 4, PROCESS, II.A.6., add the following **BOLD** changes:

6. Accommodated religions may not have their designated locations and times displaced without cause **and without first obtaining the approval of the warden. The shift supervisor may authorize the initial displacement or cancellation in an emergent situation; however, the warden will be notified and provide authorization as soon as possible following the emergent action. Acceptable cause for displacement or cancellation includes:**
 - a. **Unforeseen circumstances, including but not limited to inclement weather, weather related burn bans, facility grounds/structural emergencies, immediate safety or security concerns, facility lockdowns, movement restrictions, staffing emergencies or other conditions that compromise the facility's ability to safely conduct, supervise, or facilitate the scheduled service. Any such determination shall be based on a reasonable assessment of the impact of the circumstances on the safe, secure, and orderly operation of the facility and the religious service.**
 - 1) **Notification of the displacement or cancellation shall be provided to central office consistent with Policy 007.01 *Central Office Notification of Incidents*. In addition, a Supervisor Incident Report (SIR) shall be completed by the shift supervisor specific to the displacement or cancellation, to include the approving authority and specific reason for the cancellation.**
 - 2) **When practicable and scheduling permits, reasonable efforts shall be made to reschedule the affected worship service.**

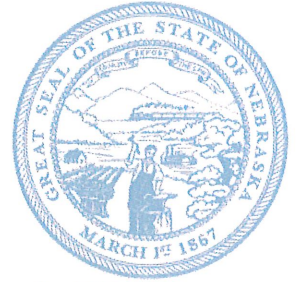
Rob Jeffreys, Director
Department of Correctional Services

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Page 4, PROCESS, II.A.7., add the following new **BOLD** section:

7. **No ongoing suspension of an established religious worship location or worship service beyond a single occurrence may occur without first receiving the prior approval of the director/designee, and only in relation to the presence of serious safety or security concern. Ongoing suspensions:**
 - a. **Must be limited to the smallest number of affected individuals the director determines is necessary to provide for institutional safety and security.**
 - b. **Must be limited in duration to the time necessary to provide for institutional safety and security.**
 - c. **The director shall ensure that responsive actions, notification, and mitigation efforts related to serious safety or security concerns are appropriately documented.**



Jim Pillen, Governor

Policy Directive 026-014

DATE: July 27, 2026

TO: NDCS Agency

FROM: Rob Jeffreys, Director

RE: Policy 217.02 *Incarcerated Individual Grievance Process*

Effective July 28, 2026 the following changes will be in effect concerning Policy 217.02 *Incarcerated Individual Grievance Process*. These revisions will be incorporated into this policy during the next scheduled review. You may contact Assistant Director Sabatka-Rine with questions regarding this change.

Page 11, PROCESS IV.C. add the following new section C.1. in **BOLD** and reletter remaining sections:

C. Grievance Administrator

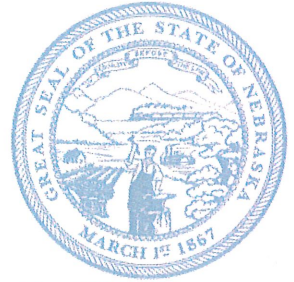
The grievance administrator will:

- 1. Monitor the submittal of all electronic Level Two (Step-One), Level Three (Step-Two), and Emergency Grievances related to religious worship and religious property. Upon receipt of such a grievance, an automated e-mail notification of the grievance shall be provided to the Assistant Director, Deputy Director-Prison Operations, Deputy Director-Rehabilitative Services, Chief Inspector, Community Engagement Coordinator, and the respective facility warden. This notification shall serve as an executive review mechanism to ensure concerns related to religious worship and religious property are promptly identified, evaluated, and, when warranted, addressed through appropriate administrative intervention.**

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Policy Directive 026-015

DATE: July 27, 2026

TO: NDCS Agency

FROM: Rob Jeffreys, Director

RE: Policy 007.01 *Central Office Notification of Incidents*

Effective July 28, 2026 the following changes will be in effect concerning Policy 007.01 *Central Office Notification of Incidents*. These revisions will be incorporated into this policy during the next scheduled review. You may contact Assistant Director Sabatka-Rine with questions regarding this change.

Page 3, PROCESS II.A., insert the following new **BOLD** section II.A.9.:

- A. Information specific to the following incidents shall be communicated via e-mail generally within two hours of occurrence to the deputy director-prison operations:
1. Any emergency incarcerated individual travel orders for outside medical care.
 2. Incidents of an incarcerated individual engaged in a suicide attempt or serious self-injurious behavior.
 3. Major mechanical problem.
 4. Weather-related occurrences or natural disasters.
 5. Hunger strike after incarcerated individual has missed/refused nine consecutive meals/three days.
 6. After-hours, unscheduled facility transfers of incarcerated individuals (facility initiating the transfer).
 7. Reported team member contact with law enforcement, including team members who have had police contact and/or been arrested (these do not include routine traffic stops).
 8. Media inquiries or any incident that has the potential to result in media attention.
 9. **Displacement or cancellation of any religious worship services, to include the approving authority and specific reason for the displacement or cancellation (see Policy 208.01 *Religious Services*).**

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