

April 17, 2019

Sheriff Todd Goodwin
23323 Wise Ct
Accomack, VA 23301

Dear Sheriff Goodwin:



701 E. Franklin Street
Suite 1412
(804) 644-8022
Richmond VA 23219
acluva.org

The American Civil Liberties Union (ACLU) of Virginia is a non-profit organization that promotes civil liberties and civil rights for everyone in the Commonwealth through public education, litigation, and advocacy with the goal of securing freedom and equality for all. Today, we are writing to you and other supervisors of our state's prisons and jails to remind each facility manager of their legal obligation to accommodate inmates' religious traditions, including accommodation of dietary restrictions which are an important part of some religious observances. This is the season where Muslim and Jewish prisoners may be observing the upcoming holidays of Ramadan and Passover, respectively, while Christians may be observing Easter. This year, Ramadan will begin the evening of Sunday, May 5, and end the evening of Tuesday, June 4. Jewish inmates will begin celebrating Passover the evening of Friday, April 19, and end the evening of Saturday, April 27. Easter is Sunday, April 21st.

Under the First Amendment of the Constitution and under Section 3 of the Federal Religious Land Use and Institutionalized Persons Act (RLUIPA), you must allow inmates to observe Ramadan and Passover, including providing adequate meals and meal timing for inmates. Similarly, the Virginia Constitution and Virginia state law prohibit any government entity from "substantially burden[ing] a person's free exercise of religion even if the burden results from a rule of general applicability." Va. Code § 57-2.02.

Under RLUIPA, an institution may not impose a substantial burden on an inmate's "observance of Ramadan, the Islamic holy month of fasting and prayer" without a compelling government interest. *Lovelace v. Shinault*, 472 F.3d 174, 185-87 (4th Cir. 2006). Thus, courts have found a failure to accommodate the meal requirements during Ramadan can violate the Free Exercise Clause of the First Amendment. *See, e.g., Norwood v. Strada*, 249 Fed. Appx. 269, 2007 U.S. App. LEXIS 23062 (3d Cir. Pa. 2007) (citing *Makin v. Colo. Dep't of Corr.*, 183 F.3d 1205, 1211 (10th Cir. 1999)). In *Lovelace*, the Fourth Circuit Court of Appeals held that that an inmate had a cause of action under RLUIPA when he was excluded from special pre-dawn and post-sunset Ramadan meals, and, therefore, was not able to fast during the daylight hours and could "not fulfill one of the five pillars or obligations of Islam."



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We ask that you comply with the law and ensure that inmates in your care receive the appropriate accommodations required for their observance of Ramadan and Passover this year.

Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, which appears to read "Claire G. Gastañaga". The signature is fluid and cursive.

Claire G. Gastañaga
Executive Director

April 17, 2019

Sheriff J.E. Harding
411 E High Street
Charlottesville, VA 22902

Dear Sheriff Harding:



701 E. Franklin Street
Suite 1412
(804) 644-8022
Richmond VA 23219
acluva.org

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Claire G. Gastañaga
Executive Director

April 17, 2019

Sheriff Dana Lawhorne
301 King Street, Suite 1300, PO Box 178
Alexandria, VA 22314

Dear Sheriff Lawhorne:



701 E. Franklin Street
Suite 1412
(804) 644-8022
Richmond VA 23219
acluva.org

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Claire G. Gastañaga
Executive Director

April 17, 2019

Sheriff Kevin Hall
268 W. Main St
Covington, VA 24426

Dear Sheriff Hall:



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Suite 1412
(804) 644-8022
Richmond VA 23219
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Claire G. Gastañaga
Executive Director

April 17, 2019

Sheriff Ricky Walker
16441 Court St
Amelia Court House, VA 23002

Dear Sheriff Walker:



701 E. Franklin Street
Suite 1412
(804) 644-8022
Richmond VA 23219
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Claire G. Gastañaga
Executive Director

April 17, 2019

Sheriff E.W. Jr.
115 Taylor St
Amherst, VA 24521

Dear Sheriff Jr.:



701 E. Franklin Street
Suite 1412
(804) 644-8022
Richmond VA 23219
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The American Civil Liberties Union (ACLU) of Virginia is a non-profit organization that promotes civil liberties and civil rights for everyone in the Commonwealth through public education, litigation, and advocacy with the goal of securing freedom and equality for all. Today, we are writing to you and other supervisors of our state's prisons and jails to remind each facility manager of their legal obligation to accommodate inmates' religious traditions, including accommodation of dietary restrictions which are an important part of some religious observances. This is the season where Muslim and Jewish prisoners may be observing the upcoming holidays of Ramadan and Passover, respectively, while Christians may be observing Easter. This year, Ramadan will begin the evening of Sunday, May 5, and end the evening of Tuesday, June 4. Jewish inmates will begin celebrating Passover the evening of Friday, April 19, and end the evening of Saturday, April 27. Easter is Sunday, April 21st.

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Claire G. Gastañaga
Executive Director

April 17, 2019

Sheriff Berry Letterman
179 Morton Ln, PO Box 366
Appomattox, VA 24522

Dear Sheriff Letterman:



701 E. Franklin Street
Suite 1412
(804) 644-8022
Richmond VA 23219
acluva.org

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Claire G. Gastañaga
Executive Director

April 17, 2019

Sheriff Beth Arthur
1425 N. Courthouse Rd., Suite 9100
Arlington, VA 22201

Dear Sheriff Arthur:



701 E. Franklin Street
Suite 1412
(804) 644-8022
Richmond VA 23219
acluva.org

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Claire G. Gastañaga
Executive Director

April 17, 2019

Sheriff Donald Smith
127 Lee Hwy
Verona, VA 24482

Dear Sheriff Smith:



701 E. Franklin Street
Suite 1412
(804) 644-8022
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We ask that you comply with the law and ensure that inmates in your care receive the appropriate accommodations required for their observance of Ramadan and Passover this year.

Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, which appears to read "Claire G. Gastañaga". The signature is fluid and cursive.

Claire G. Gastañaga
Executive Director

April 17, 2019

Sheriff Robert Plecker
85 Courthouse Hill Rd
Warm Springs, VA 24484

Dear Sheriff Plecker:



701 E. Franklin Street
Suite 1412
(804) 644-8022
Richmond VA 23219
acluva.org

The American Civil Liberties Union (ACLU) of Virginia is a non-profit organization that promotes civil liberties and civil rights for everyone in the Commonwealth through public education, litigation, and advocacy with the goal of securing freedom and equality for all. Today, we are writing to you and other supervisors of our state's prisons and jails to remind each facility manager of their legal obligation to accommodate inmates' religious traditions, including accommodation of dietary restrictions which are an important part of some religious observances. This is the season where Muslim and Jewish prisoners may be observing the upcoming holidays of Ramadan and Passover, respectively, while Christians may be observing Easter. This year, Ramadan will begin the evening of Sunday, May 5, and end the evening of Tuesday, June 4. Jewish inmates will begin celebrating Passover the evening of Friday, April 19, and end the evening of Saturday, April 27. Easter is Sunday, April 21st.

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Claire G. Gastañaga
Executive Director

April 17, 2019

Sheriff Michael Brown
1345 Falling Creek Rd
Bedford, VA 24523

Dear Sheriff Brown:



701 E. Franklin Street
Suite 1412
(804) 644-8022
Richmond VA 23219
acluva.org

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Claire G. Gastañaga
Executive Director

April 17, 2019

Sheriff Thomas Roseberry
P.O. Box 449 612 E Main St, Suite 203
Bland, VA 24315

Dear Sheriff Roseberry:



701 E. Franklin Street
Suite 1412
(804) 644-8022
Richmond VA 23219
acluva.org

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Claire G. Gastañaga
Executive Director

April 17, 2019

Sheriff Ronald Sprinkle
205 N Roanoke St. PO BOX 18
Fincastle, VA 24090

Dear Sheriff Sprinkle:



701 E. Franklin Street
Suite 1412
(804) 644-8022
Richmond VA 23219
acluva.org

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Claire G. Gastañaga
Executive Director

April 17, 2019

Sheriff David Maples
417 Cumberland Street
Bristol, VA 24201

Dear Sheriff Maples:



701 E. Franklin Street
Suite 1412
(804) 644-8022
Richmond VA 23219
acluva.org

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Claire G. Gastañaga
Executive Director

April 17, 2019

Sheriff B.K. Roberts
120 E Hicks St
Lawrenceville, VA 23868

Dear Sheriff Roberts:



701 E. Franklin Street
Suite 1412
(804) 644-8022
Richmond VA 23219
acluva.org

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Claire G. Gastañaga
Executive Director

April 17, 2019

Sheriff Ray Foster
P.O. Box 950
Grundy, VA 24614

Dear Sheriff Foster:



701 E. Franklin Street
Suite 1412
(804) 644-8022
Richmond VA 23219
acluva.org

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Claire G. Gastañaga
Executive Director

April 17, 2019

Sheriff W.G. Jr.
13380 West James Anderson Hwy
Buckingham, VA 23921

Dear Sheriff Jr.:



701 E. Franklin Street
Suite 1412
(804) 644-8022
Richmond VA 23219
acluva.org

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Claire G. Gastañaga
Executive Director

April 17, 2019

Sheriff Randy Hamilton
P.O. Box 1031
Buena Vista, VA 24416

Dear Sheriff Hamilton:



701 E. Franklin Street
Suite 1412
(804) 644-8022
Richmond VA 23219
acluva.org

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Virginia

701 E. Franklin Street
Suite 1412
(804) 644-8022
Richmond VA 23219
acluva.org

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We ask that you comply with the law and ensure that inmates in your care receive the appropriate accommodations required for their observance of Ramadan and Passover this year.

Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, which appears to read "Claire G. Gastañaga". The signature is fluid and cursive.

Claire G. Gastañaga
Executive Director

April 17, 2019

Sheriff Steve Hutcherson
P.O. Box 280
Rustburg, VA 24588

Dear Sheriff Hutcherson:



701 E. Franklin Street
Suite 1412
(804) 644-8022
Richmond VA 23219
acluva.org

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Claire G. Gastañaga
Executive Director

April 17, 2019

Sheriff Tony Lippa
118 Courthouse Ln
Bowling Green, VA 22427

Dear Sheriff Lippa:



701 E. Franklin Street
Suite 1412
(804) 644-8022
Richmond VA 23219
acluva.org

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Claire G. Gastañaga
Executive Director

April 17, 2019

Sheriff John Gardner
P.O. Box 575
Hillsville, VA 24343

Dear Sheriff Gardner:



701 E. Franklin Street
Suite 1412
(804) 644-8022
Richmond VA 23219
acluva.org

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Claire G. Gastañaga
Executive Director

April 17, 2019

Sheriff Alan Jones
10780 Courthouse Road
Charles City, VA 23030

Dear Sheriff Jones:



701 E. Franklin Street
Suite 1412
(804) 644-8022
Richmond VA 23219
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Claire G. Gastañaga
Executive Director

April 17, 2019

Sheriff Thomas Jones
222 Law Lane
Charlotte Court House, VA 23923

Dear Sheriff Jones:



701 E. Franklin Street
Suite 1412
(804) 644-8022
Richmond VA 23219
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Executive Director

April 17, 2019

Sheriff James Brown
315-A East High Street
Charlottesville, VA 22902

Dear Sheriff Brown:



701 E. Franklin Street
Suite 1412
(804) 644-8022
Richmond VA 23219
acluva.org

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Executive Director

April 17, 2019

Sheriff Jim O'Sullivan
401 Albemarle Dr.
Cheasapeake, VA 23328

Dear Sheriff O'Sullivan:



701 E. Franklin Street
Suite 1412
(804) 644-8022
Richmond VA 23219
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Executive Director

April 17, 2019

Sheriff Karl Leonard
P.O. Box 940
Chesterfield, VA 23832

Dear Sheriff Leonard:



701 E. Franklin Street
Suite 1412
(804) 644-8022
Richmond VA 23219
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We ask that you comply with the law and ensure that inmates in your care receive the appropriate accommodations required for their observance of Ramadan and Passover this year.

Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, which appears to read "Claire G. Gastañaga". The signature is fluid and cursive.

Claire G. Gastañaga
Executive Director

April 17, 2019

Sheriff Anthony Roper
100 N Church St
Berryville, AV 22611

Dear Sheriff Roper:



701 E. Franklin Street
Suite 1412
(804) 644-8022
Richmond VA 23219
acluva.org

The American Civil Liberties Union (ACLU) of Virginia is a non-profit organization that promotes civil liberties and civil rights for everyone in the Commonwealth through public education, litigation, and advocacy with the goal of securing freedom and equality for all. Today, we are writing to you and other supervisors of our state's prisons and jails to remind each facility manager of their legal obligation to accommodate inmates' religious traditions, including accommodation of dietary restrictions which are an important part of some religious observances. This is the season where Muslim and Jewish prisoners may be observing the upcoming holidays of Ramadan and Passover, respectively, while Christians may be observing Easter. This year, Ramadan will begin the evening of Sunday, May 5, and end the evening of Tuesday, June 4. Jewish inmates will begin celebrating Passover the evening of Friday, April 19, and end the evening of Saturday, April 27. Easter is Sunday, April 21st.

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Claire G. Gastañaga
Executive Director

April 17, 2019

Sheriff Todd Wilson
550 Boulevard
Colonial Heights, VA 23834

Dear Sheriff Wilson:



701 E. Franklin Street
Suite 1412
(804) 644-8022
Richmond VA 23219
acluva.org

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Claire G. Gastañaga
Executive Director

April 17, 2019

Sheriff Trevor Craddock
PO Box 266
New Castle, VA 24127

Dear Sheriff Craddock:



701 E. Franklin Street
Suite 1412
(804) 644-8022
Richmond VA 23219
acluva.org

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Claire G. Gastañaga
Executive Director

April 17, 2019

Sheriff Scott Jenkins
306 N Main St
Culpepper, VA 22701

Dear Sheriff Jenkins:



701 E. Franklin Street
Suite 1412
(804) 644-8022
Richmond VA 23219
acluva.org

The American Civil Liberties Union (ACLU) of Virginia is a non-profit organization that promotes civil liberties and civil rights for everyone in the Commonwealth through public education, litigation, and advocacy with the goal of securing freedom and equality for all. Today, we are writing to you and other supervisors of our state's prisons and jails to remind each facility manager of their legal obligation to accommodate inmates' religious traditions, including accommodation of dietary restrictions which are an important part of some religious observances. This is the season where Muslim and Jewish prisoners may be observing the upcoming holidays of Ramadan and Passover, respectively, while Christians may be observing Easter. This year, Ramadan will begin the evening of Sunday, May 5, and end the evening of Tuesday, June 4. Jewish inmates will begin celebrating Passover the evening of Friday, April 19, and end the evening of Saturday, April 27. Easter is Sunday, April 21st.

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Claire G. Gastañaga
Executive Director

April 17, 2019

Sheriff Darrell Hodges
PO Box 110
Cumberland, VA 23040

Dear Sheriff Hodges:



701 E. Franklin Street
Suite 1412
(804) 644-8022
Richmond VA 23219
acluva.org

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Claire G. Gastañaga
Executive Director

April 17, 2019

Sheriff Michael Mondul
P.O. Box 3405
Danville, VA 24541

Dear Sheriff Mondul:



701 E. Franklin Street
Suite 1412
(804) 644-8022
Richmond VA 23219
acluva.org

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Claire G. Gastañaga
Executive Director

April 17, 2019

Sheriff Scott Stanley
P.O. Box 339
Clintwood, VA 24228

Dear Sheriff Stanley:



701 E. Franklin Street
Suite 1412
(804) 644-8022
Richmond VA 23219
acluva.org

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Claire G. Gastañaga
Executive Director

April 17, 2019

Sheriff D.T. Adams
PO Box 120
Dinwiddie, VA 23841

Dear Sheriff Adams:



701 E. Franklin Street
Suite 1412
(804) 644-8022
Richmond VA 23219
acluva.org

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Claire G. Gastañaga
Executive Director

April 17, 2019

Sheriff Walter Holmes
304 Prince Street, PO Box 955
Tappahannock, VA 22560

Dear Sheriff Holmes:



Virginia

701 E. Franklin Street
Suite 1412
(804) 644-8022
Richmond VA 23219
acluva.org

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Richmond VA 23219
acluva.org

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We ask that you comply with the law and ensure that inmates in your care receive the appropriate accommodations required for their observance of Ramadan and Passover this year.

Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Claire G. Gastañaga", with a stylized, cursive script.

Claire G. Gastañaga
Executive Director

April 17, 2019

Sheriff Stacey Kincaid
4110 Chain Bridge Rd.
Fairfax, VA 22030

Dear Sheriff Kincaid:



701 E. Franklin Street
Suite 1412
(804) 644-8022
Richmond VA 23219
acluva.org

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Claire G. Gastañaga
Executive Director

April 17, 2019

Sheriff Stephen Bittle
300 Park Avenue, Ste 201 West
Falls Church, VA 22046

Dear Sheriff Bittle:



701 E. Franklin Street
Suite 1412
(804) 644-8022
Richmond VA 23219
acluva.org

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Claire G. Gastañaga
Executive Director

April 17, 2019

Sheriff Bob Mosier
10 Hotel Street
Warrenton, VA 20186

Dear Sheriff Mosier:



701 E. Franklin Street
Suite 1412
(804) 644-8022
Richmond VA 23219
acluva.org

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Claire G. Gastañaga
Executive Director

April 17, 2019

Sheriff Brian Craig
100 East Main St, Room 206
Floyd, VA 24091

Dear Sheriff Craig:



701 E. Franklin Street
Suite 1412
(804) 644-8022
Richmond VA 23219
acluva.org

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Claire G. Gastañaga
Executive Director

April 17, 2019

Sheriff Eric Hess
PO Box 113
Palmyra, VA 22963

Dear Sheriff Hess:



701 E. Franklin Street
Suite 1412
(804) 644-8022
Richmond VA 23219
acluva.org

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Executive Director

April 17, 2019

Sheriff Bill Overton
70 E Court St
Rocky Mount, VA 24151

Dear Sheriff Overton:



701 E. Franklin Street
Suite 1412
(804) 644-8022
Richmond VA 23219
acluva.org

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Executive Director

April 17, 2019

Sheriff Lenny Millholland
1080 Coverstone Dr
Winchester, VA 22602

Dear Sheriff Millholland:



701 E. Franklin Street
Suite 1412
(804) 644-8022
Richmond VA 23219
acluva.org

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Executive Director

April 17, 2019

Sheriff Paul Higgs
PO Box 448
Fredericksburg, VA 22404

Dear Sheriff Higgs:



701 E. Franklin Street
Suite 1412
(804) 644-8022
Richmond VA 23219
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We ask that you comply with the law and ensure that inmates in your care receive the appropriate accommodations required for their observance of Ramadan and Passover this year.

Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, which appears to read "Claire G. Gastañaga". The signature is fluid and cursive.

Claire G. Gastañaga
Executive Director

April 17, 2019

Sheriff W. Millirons
1 Taylor Avenue, STE 3
Pearisburg, VA 24134

Dear Sheriff Millirons:



701 E. Franklin Street
Suite 1412
(804) 644-8022
Richmond VA 23219
acluva.org

The American Civil Liberties Union (ACLU) of Virginia is a non-profit organization that promotes civil liberties and civil rights for everyone in the Commonwealth through public education, litigation, and advocacy with the goal of securing freedom and equality for all. Today, we are writing to you and other supervisors of our state's prisons and jails to remind each facility manager of their legal obligation to accommodate inmates' religious traditions, including accommodation of dietary restrictions which are an important part of some religious observances. This is the season where Muslim and Jewish prisoners may be observing the upcoming holidays of Ramadan and Passover, respectively, while Christians may be observing Easter. This year, Ramadan will begin the evening of Sunday, May 5, and end the evening of Tuesday, June 4. Jewish inmates will begin celebrating Passover the evening of Friday, April 19, and end the evening of Saturday, April 27. Easter is Sunday, April 21st.

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Claire G. Gastañaga
Executive Director

April 17, 2019

Sheriff Darrell Warren
7502 Justice Dr
Gloucester, VA 23061

Dear Sheriff Warren:



701 E. Franklin Street
Suite 1412
(804) 644-8022
Richmond VA 23219
acluva.org

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Claire G. Gastañaga
Executive Director

April 17, 2019

Sheriff James Agnew
PO Box 29
Goochland, VA 23063

Dear Sheriff Agnew:



701 E. Franklin Street
Suite 1412
(804) 644-8022
Richmond VA 23219
acluva.org

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Claire G. Gastañaga
Executive Director

April 17, 2019

Sheriff Richard Vaughan
304 Davis Street, PO Box 160
Independence,, VA 24348

Dear Sheriff Vaughan:



701 E. Franklin Street
Suite 1412
(804) 644-8022
Richmond VA 23219
acluva.org

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Claire G. Gastañaga
Executive Director

April 17, 2019

Sheriff Steven Smith
10005 Spotswood Trail
Stanardsville, VA 22973

Dear Sheriff Smith:



701 E. Franklin Street
Suite 1412
(804) 644-8022
Richmond VA 23219
acluva.org

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Claire G. Gastañaga
Executive Director

April 17, 2019

Sheriff William Jarrat, Jr.
174 Uriah Branch Way
Emporia, VA 23847

Dear Sheriff Jarrat, Jr.:



Virginia

701 E. Franklin Street
Suite 1412
(804) 644-8022
Richmond VA 23219
acluva.org

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Claire G. Gastañaga
Executive Director

April 17, 2019

Sheriff Fred Clark
P.O. Box 370
Halifax, VA 24558

Dear Sheriff Clark:



Virginia

701 E. Franklin Street
Suite 1412
(804) 644-8022
Richmond VA 23219
acluva.org

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Claire G. Gastañaga
Executive Director

April 17, 2019

Sheriff B.J. Roberts
1928 West Pembroke Avenue
Hampton, VA 23661

Dear Sheriff Roberts:



701 E. Franklin Street
Suite 1412
(804) 644-8022
Richmond VA 23219
acluva.org

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Claire G. Gastañaga
Executive Director

April 17, 2019

Sheriff David Hines
PO Box 40
Hanover, VA 23069

Dear Sheriff Hines:



701 E. Franklin Street
Suite 1412
(804) 644-8022
Richmond VA 23219
acluva.org

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(804) 644-8022
Richmond VA 23219
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We ask that you comply with the law and ensure that inmates in your care receive the appropriate accommodations required for their observance of Ramadan and Passover this year.

Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Claire G. Gastañaga", with a stylized, cursive script.

Claire G. Gastañaga
Executive Director

April 17, 2019

Sheriff Michael Wade
P.O. Box 90775
Henrico, VA 0

Dear Sheriff Wade:



701 E. Franklin Street
Suite 1412
(804) 644-8022
Richmond VA 23219
acluva.org

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Claire G. Gastañaga
Executive Director

April 17, 2019

Sheriff Lane Perry
3250 Kings Mountain Rd
Martinsville, VA 24112

Dear Sheriff Perry:



701 E. Franklin Street
Suite 1412
(804) 644-8022
Richmond VA 23219
acluva.org

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Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Sincerely,

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Claire G. Gastañaga
Executive Director

April 17, 2019

Sheriff David Neil
P.O. Box 485
Monterey, VA 24465

Dear Sheriff Neil:



701 E. Franklin Street
Suite 1412
(804) 644-8022
Richmond VA 23219
acluva.org

The American Civil Liberties Union (ACLU) of Virginia is a non-profit organization that promotes civil liberties and civil rights for everyone in the Commonwealth through public education, litigation, and advocacy with the goal of securing freedom and equality for all. Today, we are writing to you and other supervisors of our state's prisons and jails to remind each facility manager of their legal obligation to accommodate inmates' religious traditions, including accommodation of dietary restrictions which are an important part of some religious observances. This is the season where Muslim and Jewish prisoners may be observing the upcoming holidays of Ramadan and Passover, respectively, while Christians may be observing Easter. This year, Ramadan will begin the evening of Sunday, May 5, and end the evening of Tuesday, June 4. Jewish inmates will begin celebrating Passover the evening of Friday, April 19, and end the evening of Saturday, April 27. Easter is Sunday, April 21st.

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We ask that you comply with the law and ensure that inmates in your care receive the appropriate accommodations required for their observance of Ramadan and Passover this year.

Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Sincerely,

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Claire G. Gastañaga
Executive Director

April 17, 2019

Sheriff Steven Kephart, Jr.
P.O. Box 1193
Hopewell, VA 23860

Dear Sheriff Kephart, Jr.:



701 E. Franklin Street
Suite 1412
(804) 644-8022
Richmond VA 23219
acluva.org

The American Civil Liberties Union (ACLU) of Virginia is a non-profit organization that promotes civil liberties and civil rights for everyone in the Commonwealth through public education, litigation, and advocacy with the goal of securing freedom and equality for all. Today, we are writing to you and other supervisors of our state's prisons and jails to remind each facility manager of their legal obligation to accommodate inmates' religious traditions, including accommodation of dietary restrictions which are an important part of some religious observances. This is the season where Muslim and Jewish prisoners may be observing the upcoming holidays of Ramadan and Passover, respectively, while Christians may be observing Easter. This year, Ramadan will begin the evening of Sunday, May 5, and end the evening of Tuesday, June 4. Jewish inmates will begin celebrating Passover the evening of Friday, April 19, and end the evening of Saturday, April 27. Easter is Sunday, April 21st.

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Thank you for your attention to this matter.

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Claire G. Gastañaga
Executive Director

April 17, 2019

Sheriff James Clarke
P.O. Box 75
Isle of Wight, VA 23397

Dear Sheriff Clarke:



701 E. Franklin Street
Suite 1412
(804) 644-8022
Richmond VA 23219
acluva.org

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Claire G. Gastañaga
Executive Director

April 17, 2019

Sheriff John Charboneau
P.O. Box 38
King and Queen Courthouse, VA 23085

Dear Sheriff Charboneau:



701 E. Franklin Street
Suite 1412
(804) 644-8022
Richmond VA 23219
acluva.org

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Claire G. Gastañaga
Executive Director

April 17, 2019

Sheriff Steven Dempsey
10445 Government Center Boulevard
King George, VA 22485

Dear Sheriff Dempsey:



701 E. Franklin Street
Suite 1412
(804) 644-8022
Richmond VA 23219
acluva.org

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Thank you for your attention to this matter.

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Claire G. Gastañaga
Executive Director

April 17, 2019

Sheriff Jeff Walton
351 Courthouse Lane, Suite 160
King William, VA 23086

Dear Sheriff Walton:



701 E. Franklin Street
Suite 1412
(804) 644-8022
Richmond VA 23219
acluva.org

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Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, which appears to read "Claire G. Gastañaga". The signature is fluid and cursive.

Claire G. Gastañaga
Executive Director

April 17, 2019

Sheriff Patrick McCranie
8293 Mary Ball Rd
Lancaster, VA 22503

Dear Sheriff McCranie:



701 E. Franklin Street
Suite 1412
(804) 644-8022
Richmond VA 23219
acluva.org

The American Civil Liberties Union (ACLU) of Virginia is a non-profit organization that promotes civil liberties and civil rights for everyone in the Commonwealth through public education, litigation, and advocacy with the goal of securing freedom and equality for all. Today, we are writing to you and other supervisors of our state's prisons and jails to remind each facility manager of their legal obligation to accommodate inmates' religious traditions, including accommodation of dietary restrictions which are an important part of some religious observances. This is the season where Muslim and Jewish prisoners may be observing the upcoming holidays of Ramadan and Passover, respectively, while Christians may be observing Easter. This year, Ramadan will begin the evening of Sunday, May 5, and end the evening of Tuesday, June 4. Jewish inmates will begin celebrating Passover the evening of Friday, April 19, and end the evening of Saturday, April 27. Easter is Sunday, April 21st.

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Claire G. Gastañaga
Executive Director

April 17, 2019

Sheriff Gary Parsons
P.O. Box 177
Jonesville, VA 24263

Dear Sheriff Parsons:



701 E. Franklin Street
Suite 1412
(804) 644-8022
Richmond VA 23219
acluva.org

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Claire G. Gastañaga
Executive Director

April 17, 2019

Sheriff Michael Chapman
P.O. Box 7200
Leesburg, VA 20177

Dear Sheriff Chapman:



701 E. Franklin Street
Suite 1412
(804) 644-8022
Richmond VA 23219
acluva.org

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Claire G. Gastañaga
Executive Director

April 17, 2019

Sheriff Ashland Fortune
P.O Box 504
Louisa, Virginia 23093

Dear Sheriff Fortune:



701 E. Franklin Street
Suite 1412
(804) 644-8022
Richmond VA 23219
acluva.org

The American Civil Liberties Union (ACLU) of Virginia is a non-profit organization that promotes civil liberties and civil rights for everyone in the Commonwealth through public education, litigation, and advocacy with the goal of securing freedom and equality for all. Today, we are writing to you and other supervisors of our state's prisons and jails to remind each facility manager of their legal obligation to accommodate inmates' religious traditions, including accommodation of dietary restrictions which are an important part of some religious observances. This is the season where Muslim and Jewish prisoners may be observing the upcoming holidays of Ramadan and Passover, respectively, while Christians may be observing Easter. This year, Ramadan will begin the evening of Sunday, May 5, and end the evening of Tuesday, June 4. Jewish inmates will begin celebrating Passover the evening of Friday, April 19, and end the evening of Saturday, April 27. Easter is Sunday, April 21st.

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Claire G. Gastañaga
Executive Director

April 17, 2019

Sheriff Arthur Townsend, Jr.
160 Courthouse Square
Lunenburg, VA 23952

Dear Sheriff Townsend, Jr.:



701 E. Franklin Street
Suite 1412
(804) 644-8022
Richmond VA 23219
acluva.org

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Claire G. Gastañaga
Executive Director

April 17, 2019

Sheriff Donald Sloan
P.O. Box 217
Lynchburg, VA 24505

Dear Sheriff Sloan:



701 E. Franklin Street
Suite 1412
(804) 644-8022
Richmond VA 23219
acluva.org

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Claire G. Gastañaga
Executive Director

April 17, 2019

Sheriff Erik Weaver
P.O. Box 322
Madison, VA 22727

Dear Sheriff Weaver:



701 E. Franklin Street
Suite 1412
(804) 644-8022
Richmond VA 23219
acluva.org

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Claire G. Gastañaga
Executive Director

April 17, 2019

Sheriff Steve Draper
P.O. Box 1326
Martinsville, VA 24114

Dear Sheriff Draper:



701 E. Franklin Street
Suite 1412
(804) 644-8022
Richmond VA 23219
acluva.org

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Claire G. Gastañaga
Executive Director

April 17, 2019

Sheriff L. Barrick
P.O. Box 190
Mathews, VA 23109

Dear Sheriff Barrick:



701 E. Franklin Street
Suite 1412
(804) 644-8022
Richmond VA 23219
acluva.org

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We ask that you comply with the law and ensure that inmates in your care receive the appropriate accommodations required for their observance of Ramadan and Passover this year.

Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Claire G. Gastañaga", with a stylized, cursive script.

Claire G. Gastañaga
Executive Director

April 17, 2019

Sheriff Robert Hawkins, Jr.
P.O. Box 390
Boydton, VA 23917

Dear Sheriff Hawkins, Jr.:



701 E. Franklin Street
Suite 1412
(804) 644-8022
Richmond VA 23219
acluva.org

The American Civil Liberties Union (ACLU) of Virginia is a non-profit organization that promotes civil liberties and civil rights for everyone in the Commonwealth through public education, litigation, and advocacy with the goal of securing freedom and equality for all. Today, we are writing to you and other supervisors of our state's prisons and jails to remind each facility manager of their legal obligation to accommodate inmates' religious traditions, including accommodation of dietary restrictions which are an important part of some religious observances. This is the season where Muslim and Jewish prisoners may be observing the upcoming holidays of Ramadan and Passover, respectively, while Christians may be observing Easter. This year, Ramadan will begin the evening of Sunday, May 5, and end the evening of Tuesday, June 4. Jewish inmates will begin celebrating Passover the evening of Friday, April 19, and end the evening of Saturday, April 27. Easter is Sunday, April 21st.

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Claire G. Gastañaga
Executive Director

April 17, 2019

Sheriff David Bushey
P.O. Box 207
Saluda, VA 23149

Dear Sheriff Bushey:



701 E. Franklin Street
Suite 1412
(804) 644-8022
Richmond VA 23219
acluva.org

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Claire G. Gastañaga
Executive Director

April 17, 2019

Sheriff Hank Partin
1 E Main St
Christiansburg, VA 24073

Dear Sheriff Partin:



701 E. Franklin Street
Suite 1412
(804) 644-8022
Richmond VA 23219
acluva.org

The American Civil Liberties Union (ACLU) of Virginia is a non-profit organization that promotes civil liberties and civil rights for everyone in the Commonwealth through public education, litigation, and advocacy with the goal of securing freedom and equality for all. Today, we are writing to you and other supervisors of our state's prisons and jails to remind each facility manager of their legal obligation to accommodate inmates' religious traditions, including accommodation of dietary restrictions which are an important part of some religious observances. This is the season where Muslim and Jewish prisoners may be observing the upcoming holidays of Ramadan and Passover, respectively, while Christians may be observing Easter. This year, Ramadan will begin the evening of Sunday, May 5, and end the evening of Tuesday, June 4. Jewish inmates will begin celebrating Passover the evening of Friday, April 19, and end the evening of Saturday, April 27. Easter is Sunday, April 21st.

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Claire G. Gastañaga
Executive Director

April 17, 2019

Sheriff David Hill
P.O. Box 36
Lovingston, VA 22949

Dear Sheriff Hill:



701 E. Franklin Street
Suite 1412
(804) 644-8022
Richmond VA 23219
acluva.org

The American Civil Liberties Union (ACLU) of Virginia is a non-profit organization that promotes civil liberties and civil rights for everyone in the Commonwealth through public education, litigation, and advocacy with the goal of securing freedom and equality for all. Today, we are writing to you and other supervisors of our state's prisons and jails to remind each facility manager of their legal obligation to accommodate inmates' religious traditions, including accommodation of dietary restrictions which are an important part of some religious observances. This is the season where Muslim and Jewish prisoners may be observing the upcoming holidays of Ramadan and Passover, respectively, while Christians may be observing Easter. This year, Ramadan will begin the evening of Sunday, May 5, and end the evening of Tuesday, June 4. Jewish inmates will begin celebrating Passover the evening of Friday, April 19, and end the evening of Saturday, April 27. Easter is Sunday, April 21st.

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Claire G. Gastañaga
Executive Director

April 17, 2019

Sheriff Joe McLaughlin, Jr.
11995 Courthouse Circle (P.O. Box 186)
New Kent, VA 23124

Dear Sheriff McLaughlin, Jr.:



701 E. Franklin Street
Suite 1412
(804) 644-8022
Richmond VA 23219
acluva.org

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Claire G. Gastañaga
Executive Director

April 17, 2019

Sheriff Gabe Morgan
2501 Washington Avenue
Newport News, VA 23607

Dear Sheriff Morgan:



701 E. Franklin Street
Suite 1412
(804) 644-8022
Richmond VA 23219
acluva.org

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Claire G. Gastañaga
Executive Director

April 17, 2019

Sheriff Joseph Baron
811 City Hall Avenue
Norfolk, VA 23510

Dear Sheriff Baron:



701 E. Franklin Street
Suite 1412
(804) 644-8022
Richmond VA 23219
acluva.org

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Claire G. Gastañaga
Executive Director

April 17, 2019

Sheriff David Doughty Jr.
5211 The Hornes
Eastville, VA 23347

Dear Sheriff Doughty Jr.:



701 E. Franklin Street
Suite 1412
(804) 644-8022
Richmond VA 23219
acluva.org

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Claire G. Gastañaga
Executive Director

April 17, 2019

Sheriff James Lyons
195 Judicial Place (P.O Box 310)
Heathsville, VA 22473

Dear Sheriff Lyons:



701 E. Franklin Street
Suite 1412
(804) 644-8022
Richmond VA 23219
acluva.org

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Virginia

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Suite 1412
(804) 644-8022
Richmond VA 23219
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We ask that you comply with the law and ensure that inmates in your care receive the appropriate accommodations required for their observance of Ramadan and Passover this year.

Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Claire G. Gastañaga", with a stylized, cursive script.

Claire G. Gastañaga
Executive Director

April 17, 2019

Sheriff Carlos Noaks
618 Virginia Avenue NW (P.O. Box 307)
Norton, VA 24273

Dear Sheriff Noaks:



701 E. Franklin Street
Suite 1412
(804) 644-8022
Richmond VA 23219
acluva.org

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Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, which appears to read "Claire G. Gastañaga".

Claire G. Gastañaga
Executive Director

April 17, 2019

Sheriff Larry Parrish
PO Box 6, 266 W. Courthouse Rd
Nottoway, VA 23955

Dear Sheriff Parrish:



Virginia

701 E. Franklin Street
Suite 1412
(804) 644-8022
Richmond VA 23219
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Claire G. Gastañaga
Executive Director

April 17, 2019

Sheriff Mark Amos
11350 Porter Road (P. O. Box 445)
Orange, VA 22960

Dear Sheriff Amos:



701 E. Franklin Street
Suite 1412
(804) 644-8022
Richmond VA 23219
acluva.org

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Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Sincerely,

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Claire G. Gastañaga
Executive Director

April 17, 2019

Sheriff Chadwick Cubbage
108 S. Court Street
Luray, VA 22835

Dear Sheriff Cubbage:



701 E. Franklin Street
Suite 1412
(804) 644-8022
Richmond VA 23219
acluva.org

The American Civil Liberties Union (ACLU) of Virginia is a non-profit organization that promotes civil liberties and civil rights for everyone in the Commonwealth through public education, litigation, and advocacy with the goal of securing freedom and equality for all. Today, we are writing to you and other supervisors of our state's prisons and jails to remind each facility manager of their legal obligation to accommodate inmates' religious traditions, including accommodation of dietary restrictions which are an important part of some religious observances. This is the season where Muslim and Jewish prisoners may be observing the upcoming holidays of Ramadan and Passover, respectively, while Christians may be observing Easter. This year, Ramadan will begin the evening of Sunday, May 5, and end the evening of Tuesday, June 4. Jewish inmates will begin celebrating Passover the evening of Friday, April 19, and end the evening of Saturday, April 27. Easter is Sunday, April 21st.

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Claire G. Gastañaga
Executive Director

April 17, 2019

Sheriff Dan Smith
742 Commerce St (P.O. Box 128)
Stuart, VA 24171

Dear Sheriff Smith:



701 E. Franklin Street
Suite 1412
(804) 644-8022
Richmond VA 23219
acluva.org

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Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Sincerely,

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Claire G. Gastañaga
Executive Director

April 17, 2019

Sheriff Vanessa Crawford
8 Courthouse Ave
Petersburg, VA 23803

Dear Sheriff Crawford:



701 E. Franklin Street
Suite 1412
(804) 644-8022
Richmond VA 23219
acluva.org

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Claire G. Gastañaga
Executive Director

April 17, 2019

Sheriff Michael Taylor
P.O. Box 407
Chatham, VA 24531

Dear Sheriff Taylor:



701 E. Franklin Street
Suite 1412
(804) 644-8022
Richmond VA 23219
acluva.org

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Claire G. Gastañaga
Executive Director

April 17, 2019

Sheriff Michael Moore
701 Crawford St
Portsmouth, VA 23704

Dear Sheriff Moore:



701 E. Franklin Street
Suite 1412
(804) 644-8022
Richmond VA 23219
acluva.org

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Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, which appears to read "Claire G. Gastañaga". The signature is fluid and cursive.

Claire G. Gastañaga
Executive Director

April 17, 2019

Sheriff Bradford Nunnally
P.O. Box 133
Powhatan, VA 23139

Dear Sheriff Nunnally:



701 E. Franklin Street
Suite 1412
(804) 644-8022
Richmond VA 23219
acluva.org

The American Civil Liberties Union (ACLU) of Virginia is a non-profit organization that promotes civil liberties and civil rights for everyone in the Commonwealth through public education, litigation, and advocacy with the goal of securing freedom and equality for all. Today, we are writing to you and other supervisors of our state's prisons and jails to remind each facility manager of their legal obligation to accommodate inmates' religious traditions, including accommodation of dietary restrictions which are an important part of some religious observances. This is the season where Muslim and Jewish prisoners may be observing the upcoming holidays of Ramadan and Passover, respectively, while Christians may be observing Easter. This year, Ramadan will begin the evening of Sunday, May 5, and end the evening of Tuesday, June 4. Jewish inmates will begin celebrating Passover the evening of Friday, April 19, and end the evening of Saturday, April 27. Easter is Sunday, April 21st.

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Thank you for your attention to this matter.

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A handwritten signature in blue ink, which appears to read "Claire G. Gastañaga". The signature is fluid and cursive.

Claire G. Gastañaga
Executive Director

April 17, 2019

Sheriff Wesley Reed
P.O. Box 25
Farmville, VA 23901

Dear Sheriff Reed:



701 E. Franklin Street
Suite 1412
(804) 644-8022
Richmond VA 23219
acluva.org

The American Civil Liberties Union (ACLU) of Virginia is a non-profit organization that promotes civil liberties and civil rights for everyone in the Commonwealth through public education, litigation, and advocacy with the goal of securing freedom and equality for all. Today, we are writing to you and other supervisors of our state's prisons and jails to remind each facility manager of their legal obligation to accommodate inmates' religious traditions, including accommodation of dietary restrictions which are an important part of some religious observances. This is the season where Muslim and Jewish prisoners may be observing the upcoming holidays of Ramadan and Passover, respectively, while Christians may be observing Easter. This year, Ramadan will begin the evening of Sunday, May 5, and end the evening of Tuesday, June 4. Jewish inmates will begin celebrating Passover the evening of Friday, April 19, and end the evening of Saturday, April 27. Easter is Sunday, April 21st.

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We ask that you comply with the law and ensure that inmates in your care receive the appropriate accommodations required for their observance of Ramadan and Passover this year.

Thank you for your attention to this matter.

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A handwritten signature in blue ink, which appears to read "Claire G. Gastañaga". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Claire" being more prominent.

Claire G. Gastañaga
Executive Director

April 17, 2019

Sheriff Harold "Bucky" Allin
P.O. Box 366
Prince George, VA 23875

Dear Sheriff Allin:



701 E. Franklin Street
Suite 1412
(804) 644-8022
Richmond VA 23219
acluva.org

The American Civil Liberties Union (ACLU) of Virginia is a non-profit organization that promotes civil liberties and civil rights for everyone in the Commonwealth through public education, litigation, and advocacy with the goal of securing freedom and equality for all. Today, we are writing to you and other supervisors of our state's prisons and jails to remind each facility manager of their legal obligation to accommodate inmates' religious traditions, including accommodation of dietary restrictions which are an important part of some religious observances. This is the season where Muslim and Jewish prisoners may be observing the upcoming holidays of Ramadan and Passover, respectively, while Christians may be observing Easter. This year, Ramadan will begin the evening of Sunday, May 5, and end the evening of Tuesday, June 4. Jewish inmates will begin celebrating Passover the evening of Friday, April 19, and end the evening of Saturday, April 27. Easter is Sunday, April 21st.

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Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Claire G. Gastañaga", with a stylized, cursive script.

Claire G. Gastañaga
Executive Director

April 17, 2019

Sheriff Glendell Hill
9311 Lee Avenue
Manassas, VA 20110

Dear Sheriff Hill:



701 E. Franklin Street
Suite 1412
(804) 644-8022
Richmond VA 23219
acluva.org

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We ask that you comply with the law and ensure that inmates in your care receive the appropriate accommodations required for their observance of Ramadan and Passover this year.

Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Claire G. Gastañaga", written in a cursive style.

Claire G. Gastañaga
Executive Director

April 17, 2019

Sheriff Michael Worrell
802 East Main Street
Pulaski, VA 24301

Dear Sheriff Worrell:



701 E. Franklin Street
Suite 1412
(804) 644-8022
Richmond VA 23219
acluva.org

The American Civil Liberties Union (ACLU) of Virginia is a non-profit organization that promotes civil liberties and civil rights for everyone in the Commonwealth through public education, litigation, and advocacy with the goal of securing freedom and equality for all. Today, we are writing to you and other supervisors of our state's prisons and jails to remind each facility manager of their legal obligation to accommodate inmates' religious traditions, including accommodation of dietary restrictions which are an important part of some religious observances. This is the season where Muslim and Jewish prisoners may be observing the upcoming holidays of Ramadan and Passover, respectively, while Christians may be observing Easter. This year, Ramadan will begin the evening of Sunday, May 5, and end the evening of Tuesday, June 4. Jewish inmates will begin celebrating Passover the evening of Friday, April 19, and end the evening of Saturday, April 27. Easter is Sunday, April 21st.

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Claire G. Gastañaga
Executive Director

April 17, 2019

Sheriff Mark Armentrout
619 2nd St, Ste 8
Radford, VA 24141

Dear Sheriff Armentrout:



701 E. Franklin Street
Suite 1412
(804) 644-8022
Richmond VA 23219
acluva.org

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Claire G. Gastañaga
Executive Director

April 17, 2019

Sheriff Connie Compton
P.O. Box 487
Washington, VA 22747

Dear Sheriff Compton:



701 E. Franklin Street
Suite 1412
(804) 644-8022
Richmond VA 23219
acluva.org

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Claire G. Gastañaga
Executive Director

April 17, 2019

Sheriff Stephan Smith
106 Wallace Street, P. O. Box 115
Warsaw, VA 22572

Dear Sheriff Smith:



701 E. Franklin Street
Suite 1412
(804) 644-8022
Richmond VA 23219
acluva.org

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Claire G. Gastañaga
Executive Director

April 17, 2019

Sheriff Antionette Irving
1701 Fairfield Way
Richmond, VA 23223

Dear Sheriff Irving:



Virginia

701 E. Franklin Street
Suite 1412
(804) 644-8022
Richmond VA 23219
acluva.org

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We ask that you comply with the law and ensure that inmates in your care receive the appropriate accommodations required for their observance of Ramadan and Passover this year.

Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, which appears to read "Claire G. Gastañaga". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Claire" being more legible than the last name.

Claire G. Gastañaga
Executive Director

April 17, 2019

Sheriff Timothy Allen
340 Campbell Ave., SW
Roanoke, VA 24016

Dear Sheriff Allen:



701 E. Franklin Street
Suite 1412
(804) 644-8022
Richmond VA 23219
acluva.org

The American Civil Liberties Union (ACLU) of Virginia is a non-profit organization that promotes civil liberties and civil rights for everyone in the Commonwealth through public education, litigation, and advocacy with the goal of securing freedom and equality for all. Today, we are writing to you and other supervisors of our state's prisons and jails to remind each facility manager of their legal obligation to accommodate inmates' religious traditions, including accommodation of dietary restrictions which are an important part of some religious observances. This is the season where Muslim and Jewish prisoners may be observing the upcoming holidays of Ramadan and Passover, respectively, while Christians may be observing Easter. This year, Ramadan will begin the evening of Sunday, May 5, and end the evening of Tuesday, June 4. Jewish inmates will begin celebrating Passover the evening of Friday, April 19, and end the evening of Saturday, April 27. Easter is Sunday, April 21st.

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Claire G. Gastañaga
Executive Director

April 17, 2019

Sheriff J. Orange
P.O. Box 510
Salem, VA 24153

Dear Sheriff Orange:



701 E. Franklin Street
Suite 1412
(804) 644-8022
Richmond VA 23219
acluva.org

The American Civil Liberties Union (ACLU) of Virginia is a non-profit organization that promotes civil liberties and civil rights for everyone in the Commonwealth through public education, litigation, and advocacy with the goal of securing freedom and equality for all. Today, we are writing to you and other supervisors of our state's prisons and jails to remind each facility manager of their legal obligation to accommodate inmates' religious traditions, including accommodation of dietary restrictions which are an important part of some religious observances. This is the season where Muslim and Jewish prisoners may be observing the upcoming holidays of Ramadan and Passover, respectively, while Christians may be observing Easter. This year, Ramadan will begin the evening of Sunday, May 5, and end the evening of Tuesday, June 4. Jewish inmates will begin celebrating Passover the evening of Friday, April 19, and end the evening of Saturday, April 27. Easter is Sunday, April 21st.

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Claire G. Gastañaga
Executive Director

April 17, 2019

Sheriff Christopher Blalock
258 Greenhouse Rd
Lexington, VA 24450

Dear Sheriff Blalock:



701 E. Franklin Street
Suite 1412
(804) 644-8022
Richmond VA 23219
acluva.org

The American Civil Liberties Union (ACLU) of Virginia is a non-profit organization that promotes civil liberties and civil rights for everyone in the Commonwealth through public education, litigation, and advocacy with the goal of securing freedom and equality for all. Today, we are writing to you and other supervisors of our state's prisons and jails to remind each facility manager of their legal obligation to accommodate inmates' religious traditions, including accommodation of dietary restrictions which are an important part of some religious observances. This is the season where Muslim and Jewish prisoners may be observing the upcoming holidays of Ramadan and Passover, respectively, while Christians may be observing Easter. This year, Ramadan will begin the evening of Sunday, May 5, and end the evening of Tuesday, June 4. Jewish inmates will begin celebrating Passover the evening of Friday, April 19, and end the evening of Saturday, April 27. Easter is Sunday, April 21st.

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Claire G. Gastañaga
Executive Director

April 17, 2019

Sheriff Bryan Hutcheson
25 South Liberty Street
Harrisonburg, VA 22801

Dear Sheriff Hutcheson:



701 E. Franklin Street
Suite 1412
(804) 644-8022
Richmond VA 23219
acluva.org

The American Civil Liberties Union (ACLU) of Virginia is a non-profit organization that promotes civil liberties and civil rights for everyone in the Commonwealth through public education, litigation, and advocacy with the goal of securing freedom and equality for all. Today, we are writing to you and other supervisors of our state's prisons and jails to remind each facility manager of their legal obligation to accommodate inmates' religious traditions, including accommodation of dietary restrictions which are an important part of some religious observances. This is the season where Muslim and Jewish prisoners may be observing the upcoming holidays of Ramadan and Passover, respectively, while Christians may be observing Easter. This year, Ramadan will begin the evening of Sunday, May 5, and end the evening of Tuesday, June 4. Jewish inmates will begin celebrating Passover the evening of Friday, April 19, and end the evening of Saturday, April 27. Easter is Sunday, April 21st.

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Claire G. Gastañaga
Executive Director

April 17, 2019

Sheriff Steven Dye
P.O. Box 338
Lebanon, VA 24266

Dear Sheriff Dye:



701 E. Franklin Street
Suite 1412
(804) 644-8022
Richmond VA 23219
acluva.org

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Claire G. Gastañaga
Executive Director

April 17, 2019

Sheriff April Staton
2 East Calhoun Street
Salem, VA 24153

Dear Sheriff Staton:



701 E. Franklin Street
Suite 1412
(804) 644-8022
Richmond VA 23219
acluva.org

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Claire G. Gastañaga
Executive Director

April 17, 2019

Sheriff Chris Holder
336 Water Street
Gate City, VA 24251

Dear Sheriff Holder:



701 E. Franklin Street
Suite 1412
(804) 644-8022
Richmond VA 23219
acluva.org

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Claire G. Gastañaga
Executive Director

April 17, 2019

Sheriff Timothy Carter
109 West Court Street
Woodstock, VA 22664

Dear Sheriff Carter:



701 E. Franklin Street
Suite 1412
(804) 644-8022
Richmond VA 23219
acluva.org

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Claire G. Gastañaga
Executive Director

April 17, 2019

Sheriff Chip Shuler
819 Matson Drive
Marion, VA 24354

Dear Sheriff Shuler:



701 E. Franklin Street
Suite 1412
(804) 644-8022
Richmond VA 23219
acluva.org

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Virginia

701 E. Franklin Street
Suite 1412
(804) 644-8022
Richmond VA 23219
acluva.org

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We ask that you comply with the law and ensure that inmates in your care receive the appropriate accommodations required for their observance of Ramadan and Passover this year.

Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Claire G. Gastañaga", with a stylized, cursive script.

Claire G. Gastañaga
Executive Director

April 17, 2019

Sheriff Jack Stutts
P.O. Box 70
Courtland, VA 23837

Dear Sheriff Stutts:



701 E. Franklin Street
Suite 1412
(804) 644-8022
Richmond VA 23219
acluva.org

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A handwritten signature in blue ink, which appears to read "Claire G. Gastañaga". The signature is fluid and cursive.

Claire G. Gastañaga
Executive Director

April 17, 2019

Sheriff Roger Harris
P.O. Box 124
Spotsylvania, VA 22553

Dear Sheriff Harris:



701 E. Franklin Street
Suite 1412
(804) 644-8022
Richmond VA 23219
acluva.org

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Claire G. Gastañaga
Executive Director

April 17, 2019

Sheriff David Decatur
PO Box 189
Stafford, VA 22555

Dear Sheriff Decatur:



701 E. Franklin Street
Suite 1412
(804) 644-8022
Richmond VA 23219
acluva.org

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Claire G. Gastañaga
Executive Director

April 17, 2019

Sheriff Matthew Robertson
P.O. Box 64
Staunton, VA 24402

Dear Sheriff Robertson:



701 E. Franklin Street
Suite 1412
(804) 644-8022
Richmond VA 23219
acluva.org

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Claire G. Gastañaga
Executive Director

April 17, 2019

Sheriff E. C Harris
150 N Main Street
Suffolk, VA 23434

Dear Sheriff Harris:



701 E. Franklin Street
Suite 1412
(804) 644-8022
Richmond VA 23219
acluva.org

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Claire G. Gastañaga
Executive Director

April 17, 2019

Sheriff Carlos Turner
P. O. Box 233
Surry, VA 23883

Dear Sheriff Turner:



701 E. Franklin Street
Suite 1412
(804) 644-8022
Richmond VA 23219
acluva.org

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Thank you for your attention to this matter.

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Claire G. Gastañaga
Executive Director

April 17, 2019

Sheriff Ernest Giles
P.O. Box 1326
Sussex, VA 23884

Dear Sheriff Giles:



701 E. Franklin Street
Suite 1412
(804) 644-8022
Richmond VA 23219
acluva.org

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Claire G. Gastañaga
Executive Director

April 17, 2019

Sheriff Brian Hieatt
140 School St #3
Tazewell, VA 24651

Dear Sheriff Hieatt:



701 E. Franklin Street
Suite 1412
(804) 644-8022
Richmond VA 23219
acluva.org

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A handwritten signature in blue ink, which appears to read "Claire G. Gastañaga". The signature is fluid and cursive.

Claire G. Gastañaga
Executive Director

April 17, 2019

Sheriff Kenneth Stolle
2501 James Madison Blvd.
Virginia Beach, VA 23456

Dear Sheriff Stolle:



701 E. Franklin Street
Suite 1412
(804) 644-8022
Richmond VA 23219
acluva.org

The American Civil Liberties Union (ACLU) of Virginia is a non-profit organization that promotes civil liberties and civil rights for everyone in the Commonwealth through public education, litigation, and advocacy with the goal of securing freedom and equality for all. Today, we are writing to you and other supervisors of our state's prisons and jails to remind each facility manager of their legal obligation to accommodate inmates' religious traditions, including accommodation of dietary restrictions which are an important part of some religious observances. This is the season where Muslim and Jewish prisoners may be observing the upcoming holidays of Ramadan and Passover, respectively, while Christians may be observing Easter. This year, Ramadan will begin the evening of Sunday, May 5, and end the evening of Tuesday, June 4. Jewish inmates will begin celebrating Passover the evening of Friday, April 19, and end the evening of Saturday, April 27. Easter is Sunday, April 21st.

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Claire G. Gastañaga
Executive Director

April 17, 2019

Sheriff Daniel McEathrom
200 Skyline Vista Drive
Front Royal, VA 22630

Dear Sheriff McEathrom:



701 E. Franklin Street
Suite 1412
(804) 644-8022
Richmond VA 23219
acluva.org

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Claire G. Gastañaga
Executive Director

April 17, 2019

Sheriff Fred Newman
20281 Rustic LN
Abingdon, VA 24210

Dear Sheriff Newman:



701 E. Franklin Street
Suite 1412
(804) 644-8022
Richmond VA 23219
acluva.org

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Claire G. Gastañaga
Executive Director

April 17, 2019

Sheriff Joe Harris, Jr.
P.O. Box 189
Waynesboro, VA 22980

Dear Sheriff Harris, Jr.:



701 E. Franklin Street
Suite 1412
(804) 644-8022
Richmond VA 23219
acluva.org

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Claire G. Gastañaga
Executive Director

April 17, 2019

Sheriff C. Balderson
PO Box 305
Montross, VA 22520

Dear Sheriff Balderson:



701 E. Franklin Street
Suite 1412
(804) 644-8022
Richmond VA 23219
acluva.org

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Claire G. Gastañaga
Executive Director

April 17, 2019

Sheriff Robert Deeds
5201 Monticello Ave # 5
Williamsburg, VA 23188

Dear Sheriff Deeds:



701 E. Franklin Street
Suite 1412
(804) 644-8022
Richmond VA 23219
acluva.org

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Claire G. Gastañaga
Executive Director

April 17, 2019

Sheriff Les Taylor
5 North Kent Street
Winchester, VA 22601

Dear Sheriff Taylor:



701 E. Franklin Street
Suite 1412
(804) 644-8022
Richmond VA 23219
acluva.org

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Claire G. Gastañaga
Executive Director

April 17, 2019

Sheriff Ronnie Oakes
P.O. Box 916
Wise, Virginia 24293

Dear Sheriff Oakes:



701 E. Franklin Street
Suite 1412
(804) 644-8022
Richmond VA 23219
acluva.org

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Claire G. Gastañaga
Executive Director

April 17, 2019

Sheriff W. Dunagan
P.O. Box 819
Wytheville, VA 24382

Dear Sheriff Dunagan:



701 E. Franklin Street
Suite 1412
(804) 644-8022
Richmond VA 23219
acluva.org

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The tenets of Islam require fasting from sunrise to sunset for thirty days, but do not limit food consumption between sunset and dawn. Facility supervisors should provide inmates in their custody with a morning meal that is served and eaten before dawn. After sunset, inmates should be provided with an evening meal and a bag meal that can be taken back to their cell or living area for consumption later in the evening.

Relatedly, the tenets of Judaism require observers to follow specific dietary rules related to their food consumption. Jewish tradition requires adherence to Passover kosher rules, which include to refrain from eating certain meats, to ensure meats and dairy are not prepared or eaten in combination, and to avoid leavened bread. Observers may also be required to fast.

We ask that you comply with the law and ensure that inmates in your care receive the appropriate accommodations required for their observance of Ramadan and Passover this year.

Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Claire G. Gastañaga", with a stylized, cursive script.

Claire G. Gastañaga
Executive Director

April 17, 2019

Sheriff Danny Diggs
P.O. Box 99
Yorktown, VA 23690

Dear Sheriff Diggs:



701 E. Franklin Street
Suite 1412
(804) 644-8022
Richmond VA 23219
acluva.org

The American Civil Liberties Union (ACLU) of Virginia is a non-profit organization that promotes civil liberties and civil rights for everyone in the Commonwealth through public education, litigation, and advocacy with the goal of securing freedom and equality for all. Today, we are writing to you and other supervisors of our state's prisons and jails to remind each facility manager of their legal obligation to accommodate inmates' religious traditions, including accommodation of dietary restrictions which are an important part of some religious observances. This is the season where Muslim and Jewish prisoners may be observing the upcoming holidays of Ramadan and Passover, respectively, while Christians may be observing Easter. This year, Ramadan will begin the evening of Sunday, May 5, and end the evening of Tuesday, June 4. Jewish inmates will begin celebrating Passover the evening of Friday, April 19, and end the evening of Saturday, April 27. Easter is Sunday, April 21st.

Under the First Amendment of the Constitution and under Section 3 of the Federal Religious Land Use and Institutionalized Persons Act (RLUIPA), you must allow inmates to observe Ramadan and Passover, including providing adequate meals and meal timing for inmates. Similarly, the Virginia Constitution and Virginia state law prohibit any government entity from "substantially burden[ing] a person's free exercise of religion even if the burden results from a rule of general applicability." Va. Code § 57-2.02.

Under RLUIPA, an institution may not impose a substantial burden on an inmate's "observance of Ramadan, the Islamic holy month of fasting and prayer" without a compelling government interest. *Lovelace v. Shinault*, 472 F.3d 174, 185-87 (4th Cir. 2006). Thus, courts have found a failure to accommodate the meal requirements during Ramadan can violate the Free Exercise Clause of the First Amendment. *See, e.g., Norwood v. Strada*, 249 Fed. Appx. 269, 2007 U.S. App. LEXIS 23062 (3d Cir. Pa. 2007) (citing *Makin v. Colo. Dep't of Corr.*, 183 F.3d 1205, 1211 (10th Cir. 1999)). In *Lovelace*, the Fourth Circuit Court of Appeals held that that an inmate had a cause of action under RLUIPA when he was excluded from special pre-dawn and post-sunset Ramadan meals, and, therefore, was not able to fast during the daylight hours and could "not fulfill one of the five pillars or obligations of Islam."



AMERICAN CIVIL LIBERTIES UNION
FOUNDATION

Virginia

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