
The Twelve Rules of Christmas¹

(Each Rule reflects case law from court rulings concerning Christmas in schools, workplaces and elsewhere.)

1. **Public school students'** written or spoken personal expressions concerning the religious significance of Christmas (e.g., T-shirts with the slogan, "Jesus Is the Reason for the Season") may not be censored by school officials absent evidence that the speech would cause a substantial disruption.
2. **So long as teachers** are generally permitted to wear clothing or jewelry or have personal items expressing their views about the holidays, Christian teachers may not be prohibited from similarly expressing their views by wearing Christmas-related clothing or jewelry or carrying Christmas-related personal items.
3. **Public schools may teach** students about the Christmas holiday including its religious significance, so long as it is taught objectively for secular purposes such as its historical or cultural importance, and not for the purpose of promoting Christianity.
4. **Public school teachers may send** Christmas cards to the families of their students so long as they do so on their own time, outside of school hours.
5. **Public schools may include Christmas music**, including those with religious themes, in their choral programs if the songs are included for a secular purpose such as their musical quality or cultural value or if the songs are part of an overall performance including other holiday songs relating to Chanukah, Kwanzaa, or other similar holidays.
6. **Public schools may not require students** to sing Christmas songs whose messages conflict with the students' own religious or nonreligious beliefs.
7. **Public school students may not be prohibited** from distributing literature to fellow students concerning the Christmas holiday or invitations to church Christmas events on the same terms that they would be allowed to distribute other literature that is not related to schoolwork.
8. **Private citizens or groups** may display crèches or other Christmas symbols in public parks subject to the same reasonable time, place, and manner restrictions that would apply to other similar displays.
9. **Government entities may erect and maintain celebrations** of the Christmas holiday, such as Christmas trees and Christmas light displays, and may include crèches in their displays at least so long as the purpose for including the crèche is not to promote its religious content and it is placed in context with other symbols of the Holiday season as part of an effort to celebrate the public Christmas holiday through its traditional symbols.
10. **Neither public nor private employers may prevent employees from decorating** their offices for Christmas, playing Christmas music, or wearing clothing related to Christmas merely because of their religious content so long as these activities are not used to harass or intimidate others.
11. **Public or private employees whose sincerely held religious beliefs** require that they not work on Christmas must be reasonably accommodated by their employers unless granting the accommodation would impose an undue hardship on the employer.
12. **Government recognition of Christmas** as a public holiday and granting government employees a paid holiday for Christmas does not violate the Establishment Clause of the First Amendment.

¹ Attorneys for The Rutherford Institute explained: "Hoping to alleviate ongoing confusion arising from political correctness over the dos and don'ts of celebrating Christmas in schools, workplaces and elsewhere, The Rutherford Institute has issued its 'Twelve Rules of Christmas' guidelines."

General Assembly Convenes January 11, 2016

Pre-filed: S.R. 674 Senate Voting Rules Change

Beginning November 15th, members of the Georgia House and Senate may pre-file bills to be officially introduced in the 2016 legislative session. Among those already pre-filed is S.R. 674 by Senator Josh McKoon, which would change voting Rules in the Senate.

It would add a new subsection to Rule 5-1.3, relating to voting as follows:

“(f) Unless the members of the Senate by unanimous consent otherwise agree, each floor amendment offered for adoption with regard to a bill or resolution being considered by the Senate shall be voted upon by a roll-call vote and the results of which shall be entered into the Journal.”

If this passes, each floor vote on amendments would be registered on the electronic voting machine and could be accessed online or in person upon request in the Secretary of the Senate’s office.

Its Effect: Senators could no longer vote YEA or NAY by voice or by raising their hands to be counted by someone on the podium. All floor votes on amendments would become part of the permanent record of Senate action.

Its Importance: Last session, senators voted by voice or raised hand on extremely important bills, such as S.B. 6 that prohibited the issuance of driver’s licenses to illegal aliens. With the use of voice and hand votes, constituents who are not in the Senate gallery or watching online cannot be sure how senators voted. During the Senate floor debate, amendments to S.B. 6 were decided by voice and hand votes. So, there’s no machine record of those amendment votes. S.B. 6 would reverse the problem caused by the federal DACA amnesty edict that by January 2015 had allowed *15,000 illegals to be issued Georgia driver’s licenses*. No doubt, hundreds more have been issued since then. With no age limit for DACA, illegals over age 40 claim DACA status, which was extended to their parents, as well.

S.B. 6 Georgia Road Safety and Driver’s License Integrity Act

By Senate Republican Josh McKoon, Introduced in 2015, Alive for 2016

S.B. 6 is an extremely important bill that provides the following:

- (a) Federal immigration law could not be the basis for issuing driver’s licenses to illegal aliens.
- (b) Eligibility for a driver’s license could not be based on approved deferred action status.
- (c) Driver’s licenses or ID cards obtained by illegal aliens would not be proof of lawful status.
- (d) Illegal aliens could not qualify for welfare benefits under the SAVE program.
- (e) Those caught driving without a valid license could have their vehicle impounded.
- (f) On or after July 1, 2015, the Department of Driver Services would have participated in Homeland Security’s Records and Information E-Verify initiative.

Senator Josh McKoon authored S.B. 6 and led the effort to get it passed. His only cosigners are Senators Crane, 28th; Gooch 51st; Heath 31st; Ginn, 47th; Ligon, Jr., 3rd; Williams, 27th; Kirk, 13th; Thompson, 14th; Harbin, 16th; and Martin, 9th. He needs more cosigners.

ACTION – Support. (a) Contact Public Safety Senators Harper, Ch., 404 463-5263; Albers, 463-8055; Dugan, 656-7454; H. Jones*, 463-3942; Seay*, 656-5095; Watson, 656-7880; and M. Williams, 656-7127. (* indicate Democrat.)
(b) If your senator did not sign S.B. 6, please ask him to cosign and support it for 2016. It needs to pass!

Governor Deal said, “No more!” But Syrian Refugees were sent to Georgia

“If [last year’s proposed resettlement in Athens, Georgia] hadn’t played out so publicly, no one would even have noticed that it had happened.”

– Executive Director, International Rescue Committee

Georgia’s Athens Mayor Nancy Denson officially disapproved refugee resettlement in a letter to officials last year. Subsequently, clergy from eight Athens churches offered their support for more refugees in a meeting with the International Rescue Committee executive director who said, “If [last year’s proposal] hadn’t played out so publicly, no one would even have noticed that it had happened.” And that’s how they’re doing it all over the country. Refugees are resettled so quietly in designated locations that no one knows until they surface!

Governors and mayors. A November CNN article reported, “More than half the nation’s governors say Syrian refugees not welcome,” and listed 27¹ states whose governors took that position. Despite that, 18 U.S. city mayors² asked for MORE Syrian refugees, although at least one of the Paris terrorist suspects entered Europe among the wave of Syrian refugees.

The mayor of Clarkston, Georgia was one of the 18 U.S. city mayors – all members of Cities United for Immigration Action – who wrote President Obama requesting *more* refugees. They made the following promises: “We will welcome the Syrian families to make homes and new lives in our cities. ... [W]e stand ready to work with your administration ... to increase still further the number of Syrian refugees the U.S. will accept for resettlement. ... We have taken in refugees, and will help make room for thousands more ... we stand ready to support the Administration in increasing the numbers of refugees we can accept.”

In mid-November, Governor Nathan Deal said Georgia will not accept Syrian refugees “until the federal government and Congress conduct a thorough review of current screening procedures and background checks.” At that time, Governor Deal ordered state agencies not to process benefits, including food stamps, for Syrian refugees arriving in Georgia after November 16th.

Federal request contradicts Governor Deal. The federal government responded by requesting rescission of the governor’s order and compliance with federal anti-discrimination laws. Then, on December 3rd a Syrian refugee family, Mohammad and Ebtesam and their four-year-old son, were sent to Stone Mountain, where they applied for food stamps and Medicaid the day they arrived. The state agency’s response to that request is not known at this time.

Refugees settled in Georgia for years 2004-2013. Number per county: Clarke, 25; Oconee, 6; Jackson, 21; Madison, 145; Walton, 63; Barrow, 25; DeKalb, 14,968; Gwinnett, 1,125.

Cost. *Incoming funds:* Federal, \$12,210,949; Private or corporate funds, \$979,993. *Outgoing funds:* \$5,450,000 cash & medical; \$2,652,963 social services; \$1,632,980 targeted benefits; \$152,790 preventative health; \$550,000, school impact grant; \$4,006,200 matching grant.

¹ (a) 27 States reject Syrian refugees: Alabama, Arizona, Arkansas, Florida, **Georgia**, Idaho, Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Kansas, Louisiana, Maine, Massachusetts, Michigan, Mississippi, Nebraska, Nevada, New Hampshire, New Jersey, New Mexico, North Carolina, Ohio, Oklahoma, South Carolina, Tennessee, Texas, and Wisconsin

(b) 7 states say they’ll accept refugees: Colorado, Connecticut, Delaware, Hawaii, Pennsylvania, Vermont, and Washington

² Two Southern mayors requesting additional Syrian refugees: Clarkston, **Georgia** Mayor Edward Terry, Chapel Hill, N.C. mayor.

³ Sources: U.S. Immigration Statistics Office, Georgia Coalition Refugee Stakeholders, U.S. Refugee Resettlement Office

Cows & Politics

Definitions from a 1957 or '58 Economics Class, Georgia State College

(An oldie-but-goodie somewhat modified and updated by Jule Spears.)

SOCIALISM is where you have two cows and give one to your neighbor.

COMMUNISM is where you have two cows and give both of them to the government and the government gives you milk.

NATIONALISM is where you have two cows and the government shoots you and takes the cows.

THIRD WORLDISM is where you have two cows and the government shoots one cow, milks the other cow and pours the milk down the drain.

ANARCHISM is where you have two cows. You keep the cows, shoot the government and steal two more cows.

CONSERVATISM is where you have two cows and you freeze the milk and embalm the cows.

AMERICANISM is where you have two cows and you sell one cow and buy a bull.

CHRISTIANISM¹ is where you have two cows. You give both cows to the LORD JESUS along with all rights to yourself and HE gives you back three cows and ETERNAL LIFE.

Cows & Christianity: A Story Told by Dr. David Jeremiah

(From the memory of Jule Spears who heard it on the radio.)

A seminary, in Houston I think, was running out of money. The president called a meeting of all teachers and employees in his office. He told them that without receiving a huge amount of money immediately they would have to close the school.

He then asked all of them to kneel and pray. He prayed first saying, "God, I know you own all the cattle on a thousand hills. Please sell some and send us the money."

Everyone was praying in the office except for one secretary. A man walked into the office and said to the secretary, "I just sold three train car loads of cattle, and the project that I was going to use the money for fell through. I prayed about it and the Lord told me to give the money to you. Here is the check."

The secretary took the check to the President and he informed the prayer meeting, after looking at the check, "The LORD sold the cows!"

¹ "Christianism" was added by Jule Spears. It was not part of the professor's presentation.