

# Judge Orders Florida To Provide Kosher Food For Jewish Inmates

A recent ruling by a federal judge of U.S. District Court, Patricia Seitz, will require the Florida Department of Corrections to provide to “all prisoners with a sincere religious basis for keeping kosher” by July 1. It will make it easier for Jewish inmates in Florida state prisons to keep kosher, reversing what has been perceived as a longstanding injustice.

“This is a great day for justice and religious freedom – a turn of events we have long anticipated,” said Rabbi Shmuel

Spritzer, of the Chabad Jewish Prisoner outreach, headquartered in Brooklyn. “It has been over two decades. Some have been arguing that kosher food was already allowed, once the governor was even honored with an award, while we have been constantly advocating for the rights of Jewish inmates wishing

to adhere to the kosher dietary laws, and we heartily applaud this breakthrough.”

Florida, which has approximately 400 Jewish people currently in prison, lagged behind most other states, where Jewish prisoners already receive kosher food upon request.

The 30-year-old Jewish prisoner

organization also just reached a milestone, in publishing for 25 years its ongoing monthly Reaching Out publication. The services of Reaching Out range from sending religious supplies to regular visitations to prisons nationwide, some as often as once a week. Chabad Reaching Out also bills itself to be the only prison advocate organization that helps each individual with their civil and religious rights.

Chabad Reaching Out is approached by chaplains, as well as gov-



**Judge Patricia Seitz**

ernment officials, from across the country for guidance and assistance. Rabbi Spritzer added, “We do not charge any money for a Jew seeking our help, in the many troubling issues that come up for a Jew in prison.”

Reaching Out can be contacted through its website [www.jewishprisoner.com](http://www.jewishprisoner.com).