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Who receives Fitra

Fitra should be given to deserving believers whose income is not sufficient to spend on their families for one year. *Fitra* cannot be given to one's own dependents. Deserving neighbors and pious persons are good candidates to receive and enjoy the *fitra*. *Fitra* from Sayyids (descendants of Prophet Muhammad, peace and blessings of Allah be upon him and his progeny) can be given to poor Sayyids or non-Sayyids. Fitra from non-Sayyids cannot be given to Sayyids. If deserving persons are not easy to find or identify, *fitra* should be sent to places where such persons can be found, or the amount should be sent to a *mujtahid* who would do justice in its distribution.

It is absolutely mandatory that the recipient of *fitra* be *'adil*, I.e., a just and fair person who can be trusted to distribute it properly, and it is necessary to ensure that *fitra* is not given to anyone who may in any possibility use it for sinful acts such as drinking liquors, gambling, etc.

Although it is permissible to send *fitra* to any place, it is better to distribute it to a deserving person locally. The time for giving *fitra* is from the night preceding Eidul-Fitr up till noon. If this is not possible for any reason, the amount of *fitra* must then be set aside and be distributed when deserving persons are present, or it may be sent to a *mujtahid* for proper distribution, and it cannot be paid prior to the time when it becomes due. The best time to pay it is before noon prayers on Eid al-Fitr.

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