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Fatwa no. (7031):

**Q:** I have been ill for three years. I am receiving treatment in Ha'il, Riyadh and Madinah Hospitals. I can neither fast nor offer some Salahs (Prayers). Should I make up for the missed days of Sawm (fasting) during the last three years or expiate for them? I am in dire need of your help, so please advise as soon as possible.

**A: First,** It is not permissible to delay Salah beyond its due time; you should offer Salah on time as much as you can, as the Prophet (peace be upon him) stated, [\( You should offer Salah while standing. If you cannot do, offer it while sitting; and if you cannot do even that, offer it while lying on your side. \)](#) A patient is allowed to combine the Zhuhr (Noon) and `Asr (Afternoon) Prayers in the time of either of them, and the Maghrib (Sunset) and the `Isha' (Night) Prayer in the time of either of them. **Second,** the Sawm that you delayed is still a debt on you until you recover by the will of Allah. If you recover, you should make up for these days, as Allah stated, [\( but if any of you is ill or on a journey, the same number \(should be made up\) from other days. \)](#) If the illness is chronic, may Allah forbid, you should give a needy person half a Sa` (1 Sa` = 2.172 kg) of food for each day in which you broke your Sawm.

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May Allah grant us success! May peace and blessings be upon our Prophet Muhammad, his family, and Companions!

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