

# South Dakota Prisoner Resources

You have a right to be protected against discrimination and abuse in prison and there are organizations out there like the ACLU that can help if your rights are violated.

Connect with these organizations for more information on your rights and actions you can take.

**ACLU of South Dakota:** Handles prison-conditions cases and civil-liberties violations. Does not provide post-conviction assistance or research services to prisoners.

- Contact: Intake Department
- Mail: P.O. Box 1770, Sioux Falls, SD 57101
- Phone: 605-332-2508; 605-332-5648 fax
- Email: southdakota@aclu.org
- Website: aclusd.org/get-help

**Dakota Plains Legal Services:** Provides legal services to eligible applicants. Accepts some criminal cases.

- Mail: P.O. Box 727, Mission, SD 57555
- Phone: 605-856-4444; 800-658-2297 toll free
- Email: dpls9@gwtc.net
- Website: dpls.org

**East River Legal Services:** Provides legal assistance to low-income South Dakotans. Focuses on domestic violence, family law, housing law, elder law, social security/SSI Disability, and veterans and military families.

- Mail: 335 N. Main Ave. #200, Sioux Falls, SD 57104
- Phone: 605-336-9230
- Email: info@erlservices.org
- Website: erlservices.org

**Innocence Project of South Dakota USD School of Law:** Provides pro bono legal representation to South Dakota inmates with a cognizable claim of wrongful conviction.

- Mail: 414 E. Clark St., Vermillion, SD 57069
- Email: IPSD@usd.ed
- Website: usd.edu/ipsd

**South Dakota CURE (Citizens United for the Rehabilitation of Errants):** Organizes prisoners, their families and other concerned citizens to achieve reforms in the criminal-justice system. Does not take individual cases.

- Contact: Jack Mortenson
- Mail: 2116 S. Crestwood Rd., Sioux Falls, SD 57105
- Phone: 605-366-2851
- Email: jack@sdcure.com

**South Dakota Prisoner Support Group:**

Corresponds with and mails resource packet to prisoners and their friends and family. Connects prisoners with civil rights organizations, community organizations, prison literature and arts projects, family and visiting resources, health care and legal resources, and parole and pre-release resources.

- Mail: P.O. Box 3285, Rapid City, SD 57709
- Website: Find them on Facebook

**Exoneration Project:** Works to correct wrongful convictions only in cases where the accused is innocent of the crimes charged, meaning they did not commit the crime(s) and had no involvement in the crime(s). Does not take cases where the claim is an affirmative defense, such as consensual sex and self-defense.

- Contact: Intake Department
- Mail: 311 N. Aberdeen St, 3rd Floor, Chicago, IL 60607
- Website: exonerationproject.org
- Email: intake@exonerationproject.org

## KNOW YOUR RIGHTS

- **Excessive force:** Prison officials have a legal duty under the Eighth Amendment of the Constitution to refrain from using excessive force and to protect prisoners from assault by other prisoners.
- **Religious discrimination:** Prison officials cannot impose religious beliefs or practices on you. They cannot punish you for declining to take part in religious activities or events that include religious elements. Prison officials cannot give special preference to members of one faith, or treat prisoners of some religions less favorably than those of others.
- **Trans rights:** If you notify prison officials that you are transgender, and/or have been threatened, officials are legally required to act to protect you. When you enter prison, inform staff you are transgender or believe you are at risk — both verbally and in writing.
- **Pregnant in prison:** You have the right to an abortion if you want one, and to refuse an abortion if you do not want one. You have the right to prenatal and other medical care for your pregnancy and postpartum care. You cannot be forced to pay before you can get the medical care you need.

More info at [aclusd.org/kyr](https://aclusd.org/kyr)