Information on filing a Discrimination Complaint

For more information, please contact
Department of Social Services
Division of Legal Services
Phone: 605.773.3305
Email: dssinfo@state.sd.us
Online: dss.sd.gov/keyresources/discrimination

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DSS06
It is the policy of DSS to make sure applications for program benefits and services are available to everyone and are approved to all who meet program eligibility standards. Staff, programs and policies must not discriminate against clients or applicants for services because of actual or perceived race, color, sex, age, disability, religion or national origin. DSS must also provide fair and equal access to all of its programs and services for people with disabilities; including both physical access to buildings and access to programs and services. It is a violation of the DSS Nondiscrimination Policy when inequitable practices, based on the above mentioned factors, occur in the delivery of services.

Some of these practices are:
✓ Denying services or benefits;
✓ Failing to provide appropriate interpreter services;
✓ Limiting access to services because of inaccessible facilities;
✓ Failing to make reasonable accommodations to allow full participation of people with disabilities in all programs, activities and services.

Notice of Nondiscrimination
As a recipient of Federal financial assistance and a state or local governmental agency, the Department of Social Services (DSS) does not exclude, deny benefits to or otherwise discriminate against any person on the ground of race, color, or national origin, or on the basis of disability or age in admission or access to, or treatment of employment in, its programs, activities or services, whether carried out by DSS directly or through a contractor or any other entity with which DSS arranges to carry out its programs and activities; or on the basis of actual or perceived race, color, religion, national origin, sex, or disability in admission or access to, or treatment or employment in, its programs, activities or services when carried out by DSS directly or when carried out by sub-recipients of grants issued by the United States Department of Justice, Office on Violence against Women.

In accordance with state and federal laws, you may also file a complaint with the following agencies:
South Dakota Division of Human Rights 605.773.3861
U.S. Department of Agriculture, Food and Nutrition Services (for discrimination in administering the SNAP [Food Stamp] Program)
Food and Nutrition Services, Mountain Plains Regional Office
1244 Speer Boulevard, Suite 903
Denver, CO 80204-3858

Office of Civil Rights U.S. Department of Health and Human Services
200 Independence Avenue SW
Room 5020, HHS Bldg
Washington, DC 20201

Filing a complaint with DSS does not preserve the timeframe for filing a complaint with any of the agencies listed above. You must contact each agency to determine their specific timeframe.

Retaliation
State and Federal laws against discrimination prohibit retaliation. Any person, who has filed a complaint or assisted in the investigation of a complaint, shall not be intimidated, threatened, coerced or discriminated against. Complaints of this nature must be filed within 180 days of the alleged retaliatory act.

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Equal Treatment for Faith-based Religions at 28 CFR Part 38, the Violence Against Women Reauthorization Act of 2013 and Section 1557 of the Affordable Care Act.

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