

Detainees Immigrants in the Southeast Lack Meaningful Access to Lawyers

The U.S. Department of Homeland Security (DHS) imprisons roughly 350,000 people each year while their civil immigration cases are adjudicated.¹ Even though most of these immigrants are not accused of violating any criminal laws, they are often held in prisons, sometimes for months or even years at a time – often far from family, friends and resources. People facing immigration removal proceedings have the right to be represented by a lawyer, but only if they can find and retain one in the isolated communities where many immigration prisons are located.

Immigrants in the Southeast lack meaningful access to lawyers. Many are held in remote locations far from family and resources. They often cannot afford legal representation, and the government does not provide it. This is especially true for those in the Southeast, where there are fewer legal aid organizations and fewer lawyers who take immigration cases. Many immigrants are held in prisons that are not designed for long-term detention, and they often have limited access to legal resources. The government's failure to provide meaningful access to lawyers is a violation of their constitutional rights. This is especially true for those who are held in the Southeast, where the legal system is often overwhelmed and resources are scarce. Many immigrants are held in remote locations, making it difficult for them to find and retain a lawyer. The government's failure to provide meaningful access to lawyers is a violation of their constitutional rights. This is especially true for those who are held in the Southeast, where the legal system is often overwhelmed and resources are scarce.

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