

For Immediate Release:

Satanic Temple Wins Fight to Have Satanism Recognized by Kentucky State Government

The Kentucky Department of Corrections granted a Satanic Temple member the right to access religious materials and ensured protection from religious discrimination.

SALEM, MA — The Satanic Temple (TST) has reported a significant victory in Kentucky. Sober Faction, TST's peer support group for addiction recovery, claimed a member had been subjected to discrimination and deprived of their religious rights when local and state criminal justice systems refused to recognize Satanism as a legitimate religion.

According to TST, the individual joined Sober Faction in 2021 and underwent extensive training and certification in harm reduction, recovery outreach, and advocacy. However, they faced blatant religious discrimination when they were indicted for past substance-related offenses and incarcerated in the Muhlenberg County Detention Center. They were barred from accessing Sober Faction's religious support materials and coerced into participating in Christian prayer circles with guards and other inmates.

"Religious discrimination is patently unconstitutional," proclaimed TST's Executive Director of Campaigns, Erin Helian. "The religious practices and beliefs of all individuals, particularly those under the broad influence of government officials, must be respected."

According to TST, it was only after persistent efforts by their Sober Faction and Satanic Representation campaign to contact the judge, the jail's chaplain, and other officials did the Kentucky Department of Corrections officially recognize Satanism as a religion. This official recognition halts any further forced proselytization of this TST member and allows access to TST's religious materials for any incarcerated person identifying as a TST Member in Kentucky.

Helian added, "Without the courage of this member, and others like them, to challenge the state's overreach, many others would continue to experience the same discrimination and violation of their rights. Everyone should be free to practice their religion, but sadly, in many parts of the country, these rights are often disregarded if you're not Christian."

About The Satanic Temple

The Satanic Temple, subject of the critically-acclaimed documentary, *Hail Satan?*, and the academic analysis of modern Satanism, *Speak of the Devil*, confronts religious discrimination to secure the separation of church and state and defend the Constitutional rights of its members. The mission of The Satanic Temple is to encourage benevolence and empathy, reject tyrannical authority, advocate practical common sense, oppose injustice, and undertake noble pursuits for the individual will. For more information about The Satanic Temple, visit <https://thesatanictemple.com/>.