



DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTIONS

ADMINISTRATION

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Court Service Officers, Parole and Juvenile Corrections Agents honored

Pierre, S.D. - The work of court service officers, parole agents and juvenile corrections agents is being recognized this week.

July 17th through July 23rd 2005 is 'Court Services, Parole Agents and Juvenile Corrections Agents Week' in South Dakota, as proclaimed by Governor Mike Rounds and South Dakota Supreme Court Chief Justice David Gilbertson.

In South Dakota, parole and juvenile community corrections are functions of the Department of Corrections (DOC) while probation falls under the supervision of the Unified Judicial System.

As of June 30, 2005, there were more than 2-thousand people on parole and suspended sentence supervision in South Dakota and Juvenile Corrections Agents were supervising nearly 1-thousand youth in placement and on aftercare in South Dakota. Nationwide, there are more than 4-point-8 million adults and 670-thousand juveniles that are under various types of community supervision.

Because of the increasing number of people on parole in South Dakota, four new parole agents have been hired. One of the new agents will be stationed in Rapid City, another in Pierre and the remaining two in Sioux Falls. The new agents begin work on July 25th.

"The job of an agent is ever changing," said Ed Ligtenberg, Executive Director of the Board of Pardons and Paroles. "It's a mix of compliance manager, resource provider and case manager."

"Juvenile Corrections Agents play a key role in the lives of youth from the time of their commitment to DOC by the court system until they return back to their communities," said Kristi Bunkers, Director of Classification and Community Services for the DOC Juvenile Division.

"Our agents assist young people and their families by connecting them to services to meet their needs."

Community supervision also saves significant tax dollars that can then be diverted to other needs of the state. It costs just under 5-dollars per day to supervise someone on parole. The average cost per day to house someone in prison in South Dakota is approximately \$40.

Agents also ensure that offenders take care of their court-ordered obligations such as restitution to crime victims and to counties for the cost of court-appointed attorneys, child support and fines. In state fiscal year 2005, parole agents collected \$1,768,137 in court-ordered fines, restitution and support and another \$244,912 in supervision fees from parolees they supervised.

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Media Note: If you wish to do a story on a parole agent or juvenile corrections agent in your area, contact Michael Winder at (605) 773-3478.

Addresses and phone numbers of parole and juvenile corrections agents offices are available on the DOC website at:

http://www.state.sd.us/corrections/juvenile_agents_offices.htm and
http://www.state.sd.us/corrections/parole_service_offices.htm.

Additional information on parole is available at:

<http://www.state.sd.us/corrections/parole.htm>

Additional information on juvenile aftercare is available at:

http://www.state.sd.us/corrections/juvenile_aftercare.htm

A copy of the proclamation is available at:

<http://www.state.sd.us/corrections/CSPJCAWeekProc2005.PDF>