

South Dakota

RANK **36** SCORE **35.8%**



government

Religious Freedom Restoration Act	Religious Freedom Restoration Act	✓
Absentee Voting	Absentee Voting	✓
Nonparticipation in Weddings by Public Officials	Nonparticipation in Weddings by Public Officials	



health care

General Conscience Protection	General Conscience Protection	
Abortion Refusal	Individual-Level Abortion Refusal	✓
	Private Hospital Abortion Refusal	✓
	Public Hospital Abortion Refusal	✓
	Immunity from Civil Liability (Abortion)	✓
	Immunity from Criminal Liability (Abortion)	✓
	Protection from Government Consequences (Abortion)	✓
	Refusal in Emergency (Abortion)	✓
	Disposal of Abortion Remains	✓
Sterilization Refusal	Individual-Level Sterilization Refusal	
	Private Hospital Sterilization Refusal	
	Public Hospital Sterilization Refusal	
	Immunity from Civil Liability (Sterilization)	
	Immunity from Criminal Liability (Sterilization)	
	Protection from Government Consequences (Sterilization)	
Contraception Refusal	Individual-Level Contraception Refusal	
	Private Hospital Contraception Refusal	
	Public Hospital Contraception Refusal	
	Immunity from Civil Liability (Contraception)	
	Immunity from Criminal Liability (Contraception)	
	Protection from Government Consequences (Contraception)	
Euthanasia Refusal	Euthanasia Refusal	
Recusal of Counseling Provider	Right to Opt Out of Mental Counseling	
	Right to Opt Out of Genetic Counseling*	
Health Insurance Mandates	Exemption from Contraception Mandate	✓
	Exemption from Abortion Mandate	✓
	Exemption from Sterilization Mandate	✓

Items marked with an asterisk (*) are new in 2026.

 economic life

Nonparticipation in Economic Arrangements	For-Profit Business Nonparticipation in Wedding Ceremonies	
	Nonparticipation in Union Membership*	✓
No Religious Discrimination in Financial Services/Insurance Provision	Insurance Companies Prohibited from Denying Access	
	Financial Institutions Prohibited from Denying Access	

 religious life

Clergy-Penitent Privilege Protected	Clergy-Penitent Privilege Protected	✓
Ceremonial Use of Alcohol by Minors	Furnishment to Minors	
	Consumption by Minors	✓
Houses of Worship Protected from Closing	Houses of Worship Protected from Closing	
Nonparticipation in Weddings by Clergy	Nonparticipation in Weddings by Clergy	
Religious Entity Refusal to Participate in Weddings	Nonparticipation by Religious Organizations	
	Explicit Protection of Tax-Exempt Status	
	Protections from Government Penalties Beyond Tax-Exempt Status	

 family and education

Immunization Requirement Exemption	Immunization Requirement Exemption	✓
School Protections	Public K-12 Students Excused for Religious Observance	
	Public K-12 Students Excused for Religious Instruction	
	Public College and University Students Excused for Religious Observance	
	Right of Student Athletes to Wear Faith-Related Attire	
	Right to Opt Out of Sex Education Assignments	
	Equal Access for College Students*	✓
No Religious Discrimination in Foster Parent Eligibility	No Religious Discrimination in Foster Parent Eligibility	

Items marked with an asterisk (*) are new in 2026.

Religious Liberty in the States 2026 Rankings

