

Native American Rights Fund

Indigenous Peoples' Rights

<https://www.narf.org/supreme-judicial-court-of-massachusetts-issues-important-native-american-religious-practices-decision/>

Campaign and Advocacy



Last week the Supreme Judicial Court of Massachusetts [unanimously ruled](#) that state prison officials went against federal law when they closed a sweat lodge at one of the states prisons. The court found that closing the sweat lodge was a substantial burden for Native American inmates trying to exercise their religion, and that this impingement on their right to worship was not justified by any compelling interest. On behalf of [Huy](#), a nonprofit organization that support indigenous inmates, the Native American Rights Fund filed an amicus brief supporting the Native prisoners in this case, which can be read [here](#). More information on NARFs advocacy supporting the religious rights of incarcerated Native Americans can be found [in our post from earlier this year](#).

Boulder, CO [\(303\) 447-8760](#)

Anchorage, AK [\(907\) 276-0680](#)

Washington, DC [\(202\) 785-4166](#)