



## Justice Department Files Lawsuit Against the State of Louisiana for Its Overdetention Practices

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On December 20, 2024, the U.S. Department of Justice's (DOJ) Civil Rights Division and the three U.S. Attorney's Offices for the State of Louisiana filed a lawsuit against the State of Louisiana and the Louisiana Department of Public Safety and Corrections ("LDOC"), under the Civil Rights of Institutionalized Persons Act (CRIPA), 42 U.S.C. § 1997. The lawsuit seeks to remedy the State and LDOC's pattern or practice of confining people in their custody past the dates when they are legally entitled to be released from custody, in violation of the Constitution's Fourteenth Amendment.

The United States alleges that the State and LDOC:

- **Deny individuals' due process rights to timely release from incarceration by detaining them weeks and often months past their release dates.** The data show that more than a quarter of the people due to be released from the State's custody each year are instead incarcerated past their release dates.
- **Fail to implement adequate policies and procedures to prevent systemic overdetection.** The State and LDOC continue to use outdated, unreliable, and inefficient systems and practices that they know result in errors and unreasonable administrative delays that cause overdetection.
- **Are deliberately indifferent to the systemic overdetection of people in its custody.** The State and LDOC have been on notice of this issue for more than a decade yet have failed to take adequate steps to remedy the systemic deficiencies causing overdetection.

This lawsuit follows the Department's January 2023 CRIPA Findings Report that, after an extensive investigation, found reasonable cause to believe that LDOC routinely confines people in its custody past the dates when they are legally entitled to be released from custody.

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If you have any questions or comments, please feel free to contact the DOJ team:

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