

## Public Libraries as Community Safety Zones

**Goal:** *To designate public libraries as community safety zones*

### Details:

- Existing law designates schools and public parks, playgrounds and pools as community safety zones.
- Designating public libraries as community safety zones will make it illegal for sexual offenders to use the library for the purpose of making contact with children.



### Background:

- Public libraries in South Dakota are community gathering places for people of all ages and backgrounds. As such, public safety is a priority for all South Dakota public libraries.
- To ensure the safety of children visiting the library, registered sex offenders should be prohibited from using public libraries for the primary purpose of observing or contacting children.
- Designating public libraries as community safety zones would not prohibit registered sex offenders from using their public libraries to obtain library services. The community safety zone designation would only prohibit the use of the library for the primary purpose of contacting or observing children.

