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***Alaska Prisoners' Rights Guide* Now Available Online
Important Resource for Prisoners, Their Families, and Advocates**

ANCHORAGE, AK, October 31, 2008 — The American Civil Liberties Union of Alaska announced today that the *Alaska Prisoners' Rights Guide* is available online through its website at <http://www.akclu.org/PrisonRights/prisonrights.htm>.

The *Guide* provides a summary of prisoners' rights in Alaska and is intended as a comprehensive resource for prisoners and their advocates seeking to challenge conditions of confinement or enforce constitutional rights.

Divided into three parts, the *Guide*:

- examines the current state of prisoners' rights law in Alaska, specifically focusing on ten prominent constitutional rights;
- summarizes the Federal Prison Litigation Reform Act and the Alaska Prison Litigation Reform Act; and
- provides an overview of some of the major Alaska Department of Corrections policies and procedures that implicate prisoners' rights, such as the classification system, grievance process, and prisoner discipline system.

“Since the ACLU of Alaska could never represent all the prisoners in Alaska, providing the *Alaska Prisoners' Rights Guide* has been an essential means to multiply the ACLU's efforts in righting any injustices in the Alaska prison system,” said Tom Stenson, Prison Rights Attorney for the ACLU of Alaska. “Publishing the *Guide* online lets prisoners know what their rights are and how to protect those rights. I also hope that the *Guide* can be a resource for non-prisoners, such as attorneys unfamiliar with this challenging field of law who would like to take on a *pro bono* case.”

The *Guide* had been available by mail at a reduced cost to prisoners for several years. Making the *Guide* available for free via the internet to prisoners and their families, as well as to attorneys, academics, and others interested in litigation and the prison system should better serve the needs of prisoners and their advocates.

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