

WORKING TO ABOLISH THE DEATH PENALTY IN FLORIDA

For a number of years, the MSJC Death Penalty Abolition and Restorative Justice (DP-RJ) team has collaborated with other groups, such as Ohioans To Stop Executions (OTSE) and the Texas Coalition to Abolish the Death Penalty (TCADP), in order to increase our reach and effectiveness. In June, two members of the DP-RJ team met with leaders of **Floridians for Alternatives to the Death Penalty (FADP)** to discuss how we could collaborate. FADP is a Florida-based, state-wide organization of individuals and groups working together to end the death penalty in Florida.

(The following points are taken from the FADP website. See <https://www.fadp.org/>)

The FADP “network includes dozens of state and local groups and thousands of individual Floridians, including murder victims' family members and other survivors of violent crime, law enforcement professionals, families of the incarcerated, and death row exonerees.

Using a coordinated, strategic, and empowerment-oriented approach, FADP works to build and mobilize public and political support for abolition. [Their] short-term objectives include reducing death sentences, opposing executions, and changing the statewide conversation about the death penalty by highlighting the tremendous support for abolition. At all times [FADP prioritizes] protecting the humanity of persons impacted by the death penalty and the criminal justice system and contributing to the national momentum for repeal.”

FADP’s current legislative focus is SB1156 (Brandes, R-24), which would exempt capital defendants from the death penalty if at the time of the crime they had a serious mental illness that significantly impaired their capacity to exercise rational judgments in relation to their conduct, to conform their conduct to the requirements of the law, or to appreciate the nature, consequences or wrongfulness of their conduct. The bill does not acquit a defendant of guilt. If found guilty, a person with serious mental illness would be sentenced to life without the possibility of release.

The FADP leadership would very much like to connect with Marianists who live in Florida, but all are encouraged to become informed and active in efforts to abolish the death penalty and reform the criminal justice system.

How you can get involved with FADP:

- [Sign up to receive the FADP Newsletter](#) so you can receive the latest updates, tools, events, and action alerts.
- [Take action](#) to end the death penalty in Florida for persons with serious mental illness.
- Watch and share a powerful new video featuring former Florida Supreme Court Chief Justice Kogan. The video, which will be released in late July, will be available on the Corless Barfield Trial Group YouTube channel (https://www.youtube.com/results?search_query=Corless+Barfeld+Trial+Group+).
- [Get Informed](#) about the death penalty in Florida.
- Interested in doing more? Email fadpinfo@gmail.com for additional information and materials.

The MSJC DP-RJ team plans to work with FADP to offer an online program in 2022.