



October 30, 2019

Contact:

Redmond Haskins  
The Legal Aid Society  
[rhaskins@legal-aid.org](mailto:rhaskins@legal-aid.org)  
(929) 441-2384

**\*\*\*FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE\*\*\***

***LEGAL AID STATEMENT ON PROPOSED NYC BOARD  
OF CORRECTION RULES TO REGULATE HOUSING AT  
CITY JAILS***

(NEW YORK, NY) – **The Legal Aid Society** issued the following statement in response to proposed rules issued by the New York City Board of Correction to regulate housing units at City jails:

“These proposed rules must do more to address the deplorable conditions of isolated and highly restrictive housing units at Rikers Island and other local jails. The City cannot be allowed to expand its ever-growing arsenal of punitive and inhumane isolated confinement practices. No law or regulation in New York City should permit shackles labeled “restraint desks” or stays in solitary confinement that violate international standards.

The Mandela Rules — the United Nations Standard Minimum Rules for the Treatment of Prisoners — establish that anything above 15 days in solitary confinement is torture, with no exceptions — but these proposed BOC rules tolerate four times that for some situations and permit the Chief of Department to overrule a person’s release from solitary in others. These allowances are not the bold vision of reform that the City has promised to transform the toxic culture at the New York City Department of Correction. The Legal Aid Society will submit comments immediately on what the City must do to deliver the systemic change needed at DOC.”

###

*The Legal Aid Society exists for one simple yet powerful reason: to ensure that New Yorkers are not denied their right to equal justice because of poverty. For over 140 years, we have protected, defended, and advocated for those who have struggled in silence for far too long. Every day, in every borough, The Legal Aid Society changes the lives of our clients and helps improve our communities. <https://www.legalaidnyc.org>*