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

LEGAL AID CALLS ON CITY TO LIFT VISITING LIMITATIONS ON FAMILY OF NICHOLAS FELICIANO

(NEW YORK, NY) – The Legal Aid Society issued a letter today to the New York City Department of Correction (DOC) demanding that it allow the family of [Nicholas Feliciano](#) – a 18-year-old Legal Aid client who recently attempted suicide in DOC custody at Rikers Island and who remains in critical condition at Elmhurst Hospital in Queens – unfettered access to Nicholas during this time of need as medical staff struggles to stabilize his condition.

According to Nicholas’ family, despite the fact that he remains unconscious, DOC officers continue to staff his hospital room and hold family to jail visiting hours and restrictions. Nicholas’ doctors have even contacted the City about the stress that this has caused his relatives and urged the City to reverse course.

The letter states:

Our client Nicholas Feliciano is an 18 year old in a coma, held in your custody at the DOC Prison Ward in Elmhurst Hospital. DOC has caused Mr. Feliciano’s family significant difficulty trying to visit him during these critical days: they have been told they can visit only during DOC visiting hours or days; cannot bring ordinary items into the room, such as phones; must wait long periods for clearance when they arrive; and cannot photograph him.

This is unacceptable. Mr. Feliciano is on life support. He poses no security risk, and needs his family at his bedside at this critical time. We ask for your immediate assurances that DOC will not enforce any limitations on family visits for Mr. Feliciano, and that his family has the same access to him as would families visiting non-incarcerated patients in his condition at Elmhurst.

Please let us know of this commitment by return email, and please ensure that it is immediately implemented by DOC staff at Elmhurst.

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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>