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

LEGAL AID SOCIETY STATEMENT ON NICHOLAS FELICIANO

(NEW YORK, NY) – The Legal Aid Society released the following statement as counsel representing [Nicholas Feliciano](#):

“Nicholas’ tragedy illustrates the dangers and horrors of relying on our broken parole and correctional systems to address a mental health crisis. Despite his young age and known mental health history of past suicide attempts, Nicholas, who is 18 years old, was remanded to New York City jails – a system with a poor track record of managing suicide risks during incarceration – on allegations that have so far resulted in no criminal charges.

Nicholas is still incarcerated, admitted to the Intensive Care Unit at Elmhurst Hospital. Although Nicholas remains unconscious, a New York City Department of Correction officer sits by his bedside at all times and his family is only allowed to visit during scheduled hours and with DOC approval.

His doctors and our Parole Revocation Defense Unit have called on the New York State Department of Correction and Community Supervision to release Nicholas from custody at once and to drop the parole violation given his critical medical health, as these constraints have already exacerbated his family’s grief and anxiety around this tragedy.

This outcome underscores the New York City Department of Correction's inability to safeguard the youngest people in its custody. It represents a colossal failure of supervision and leadership, one for which we demand answers before another New Yorker leaves the New York City jails in critical condition.”

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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>