



Justice in Every Borough.

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

Statement in Response to NYC Department of Correction Abruptly Ending Public Notifications of Deaths in Custody

(NEW YORK, NY) - The Legal Aid Society released the following statement in response to the New York City Department of Correction (DOC) [abruptly ending](#) its practice of notifying the public of deaths in custody:

“This is another lowlight in the Department of Correction’s campaign to keep outside eyes away from the catastrophe that is the City’s jail system and the harm it inflicts daily on New Yorkers trapped inside its deadly walls.

“DOC has limited the New York City Board of Correction’s access to information, terminated long-standing services for incarcerated New Yorkers, attempted to bury damning monitor reports and now seeks to deny the public information about people who die in custody. The City cannot be permitted to isolate the jails from outside oversight, especially at a moment when so many of our incarcerated clients are vulnerable to suffering severe harm or even death.

“It is clearer than ever that only an authority independent of the City, such as a federal receiver, can address the ongoing crises plaguing the Department of Correction.”

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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 145 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. www.legalaidnyc.org