



AMERICAN CIVIL LIBERTIES UNION OF UTAH FOUNDATION, INC.
355 NORTH 300 WEST, SALT LAKE CITY, UT 84103
(801) 521-9862 PHONE • (801) 532-2850 FAX
ACLU@ACLUUTAH.ORG • WWW.ACLUUTAH.ORG

PRESS RELEASE

April 1, 2020

Media Contacts

John Mejia
Legal Director, ACLU of Utah
jmejia@acluutah.org
(C) 801-680-9575

Aaron Kinikini
Legal Director, Disability Law Center
akinikini@disabilitylawcenter.org
(C) 801-259-3830

Jason Stevenson
Strategic Communications Manager, ACLU of Utah
(C) 617-290-8188

ACLU of Utah Files Petition of Extraordinary Relief to Demand Release of Incarcerated Individuals in Utah Due to COVID-19 Threat

On April 1, 2020, the ACLU of Utah, the Disability Law Center, and the Utah Association of Criminal Defense Attorneys filed a Petition for Extraordinary Relief with the Utah Supreme Court demanding that state correctional facilities increase the release of incarcerated individuals to avoid unnecessarily heightened risks of serious harm from the COVID-19 pandemic while also ensuring safety for our communities outside of correctional facilities.

"We bring this case to protect the lives and safety of all people in Utah, incarcerated and non-incarcerated alike. This pandemic presents unprecedented risks and poses special danger to people in prisons and jails. While we appreciate the steps that state, county, and local authorities are taking to increase safety at correctional facilities, we bring this lawsuit because we think that the measures now being taken do not match the enormity and urgency of the problem we face. We hope for the rapid implementation of new steps to keep pace with this state, nation, and worldwide crisis."

- *John Mejia, Legal Director at the ACLU of Utah*

Read the **Petition for Extraordinary Relief** ([PDF](#))
(*what we are asking for...*)

Review the **Memorandum of Points and Authority to Support the Petition** ([PDF](#))
(*How we support our argument...*)

Read a **FAQ about the Petition for Extraordinary Relief** ([PDF](#))

Download a **copy of this press release** ([PDF](#))

Visit the **ACLU of Utah webpage** with more resources ([link](#))

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