



State of Utah

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Department of Corrections Issues Statement in Response to Medical Records in State of Utah vs. Steven Crutcher Case

Utah Department of Corrections' Executive Director Rollin Cook issued the following statement Tuesday in response to comments made during a plea hearing for State of Utah vs. Steven Crutcher in the courtroom of 6th District Court Judge Wallace Lee.

“We understand the seriousness of this issue and how the misinterpretation of this court order contributed to the outcome of the Crutcher case. We are very sorry for this error and immediately took steps to correct it, including clarifying requirements for handling court-ordered medical records requests and adding additional checks to ensure we are providing everything the law requires.

“We are committed to transparency and complying with the public records act and court orders. The Department did not intentionally or deceptively withhold records from the court. Defense counsel for Crutcher requested all medical records for the inmate. While the Department provided a list of medications prescribed, it failed to produce a list of all dates and times medications were dispensed to Crutcher. This was an error based on a misinterpretation of what was required of the Department under the court's order.

“Beginning immediately, when a court order requires the release of all medical records, we will add an additional review by supervisors that verifies all records were provided. This process will only apply to court-ordered requests since most medical records are restricted from public release because they are classified as private and sometimes controlled under GRAMA. The Department has begun retraining all records staff on responding to court orders.

“The Department stands by the integrity of our records processes, which reviews thousands of requests every year. We hope that by adding these safeguards to our process, the public and our court system can continue to trust the Department and our ability to provide appropriate, legal access to information concerning the department and the inmates in our custody.”

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