



State of Utah

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UDC joining with Rasa Legal and USARA to support free expungement opportunities

The Utah Department of Corrections (UDC) is teaming up with Rasa Legal and Utah Support Advocates for Recovery Awareness (USARA) to help low-level offenders clear their records and get their lives back on track.

As part of National Recovery Month, Rasa Legal is donating 30 free expungements and a Second Chance Fund is being created to cover government fees for 30 individuals who qualify.

“Expunging a criminal record is a key part of getting a job,” said Rasa Legal founder and CEO Noella Sudbury. “Linking people to good employment opportunities is one of the most effective ways to keep people crime-free, and our communities safe.”

The fund helps clear a major hurdle for those who can’t afford it.

“Starting with a clear record can help people move forward with their lives without the limitations and stigma of their past,” said USARA executive director Mary Jo McMillen.

When this happens, the benefits go far beyond the individual. People who get that fresh start are 63 percent more likely to get a job interview and make 22 percent more one year after expungement.

“That’s what corrections is all about -- working together as a department, and with community partners, to produce the strongest outcomes possible for the community,” said UDC executive director Brian Redd. “Preparing someone to take advantage of a second chance is the ultimate goal.”

Individuals with records who want to be considered to receive one of the 30 free expungements can use Rasa's eligibility tool for free at rasa-legal.com by entering the code RECOVERY.

Our organizations are also urging community members to donate to the Second Chance fund throughout the month of September at myusara.com/SecondChance/.

Additional information:

Contact UDC Communications Director Glen Mills for on-camera and/or live interview opportunities. 385-296-4193

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