



State of Utah

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# Utah Department of Corrections

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NEWS RELEASE  
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### **Processes change for inmate releases from county jails**

The Utah Department of Corrections (UDC) is changing its processes for releasing inmates from county jails following the inadvertent release of an individual from Davis County Jail. Effective October 18, 2023, UDC now requires written notification to jails if there is any change in the release status of any individual.

On September 26, Joseph Armijo, 34, was released to his mother from the Davis County Jail. Armijo was scheduled to be paroled on September 26; however, earlier in the week the Board of Pardons and Parole (BOPP) rescinded his parole due to a disciplinary violation.

When the mistake was realized, Adult Probation and Parole (AP&P) agents went to the home where he was believed to be, took him back into custody and transported him to the Utah State Correctional Facility without incident and within hours of his release.

The UDC and Davis County worked together to investigate the incident. Preliminary results of the investigation show that both UDC and Davis County had procedural errors that contributed to Armijo's release.

UDC notified BOPP that Armijo had a non-violent allegation and the Board decided to rescind his parole date. Armijo was informed, in person, of the decision to rescind the parole date. His family was also notified of the decision and instructed not to pick him up from the jail. UDC did not send Davis County written notification of the change in status. Prior to his release, Davis County did not compare their release list with the official list from UDC. The culmination of these actions resulted in Armijo's mistaken release from custody.

Immediately following the incident, UDC temporarily suspended all releases from county jails and opened the investigation. Armijo is in custody at the Utah State Correctional Facility pending a hearing on the disciplinary allegations.

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