



U.S. Department of Justice

Andrew E. Lelling
*United States Attorney
District of Massachusetts*

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1 Courthouse Way
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Boston, Massachusetts 02210*

February 22, 2021

SENT VIA U.S. MAIL

Steven W. Tompkins
Sheriff
Suffolk County Sheriff's Department
20 Bradston St.
Boston, MA 02118

Re: ADA Investigation of Suffolk County Sheriff's Department Provision of Medications for Opioid Use Disorder

Dear Sheriff Tompkins:

As you know, in October 2018, our office opened an investigation to determine whether the Suffolk County Sheriff's Department complied with the Americans with Disabilities Act by not providing medications used to treat opioid use disorder (OUD) to individuals receiving that medication prior to entering the Sheriff's custody.

Since we opened our investigation, your department addressed the underlying issue of our concern. It is our understanding that your department has implemented a program that:

1. Does not change or discontinue a medication used to treat OUD except upon an individualized determination made by a qualified medical specialist that the treatment is no longer appropriate based on the person's current condition;
2. Does not use incentives, rewards, or punishments to encourage or discourage a person to receive any particular medication used to treat OUD while in the facility's custody; and
3. Does not deny health services, or services provided in connection with drug rehabilitation, to an individual on the basis of that individual's current illegal use of drugs, if the individual is otherwise entitled to such services.

Accordingly, the U.S. Attorney's Office will close its investigation of this matter.

This does not constitute a finding by the United States that the Suffolk County Sheriff's Department is in full compliance of the ADA in regards to any other matter, nor does it affect the rights of private individuals to enforce their rights under the ADA.

As we have expressed before, we appreciate your cooperation in this matter and applaud your proactive efforts. If you have questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact our office.

Sincerely,

ANDREW E. LELLING
United States Attorney

CC: Gregory J. Dorchak
Assistant U.S. Attorney
Civil Rights Unit

Jennifer A. Serafyn
Assistant U.S. Attorney
Chief, Civil Rights Unit