Class Action Lawsuits

***Uptown People's Law Center has six class action lawsuits filed against the Illinois Department of Corrections. These lawsuits will ultimately change the prison system in Illinois for the better. To learn more about a case, click on the name.***

[**Shipp v. Gomez: Conditions at Northern Reception Center**](https://www.uplcchicago.org/what-we-do/prison/shipp-v-gomez.html)

The Northern Reception Center in Crest Hill is the point of entry for most prisoners into the Illinois Department of Corrections prison system. Approximately 1,000 prisoners are held there at a time, and they stay for months before being transferred elsewhere. The NRC is rife with vermin, mold, and sewage–even in the kitchen. In February 2022 we filed a class action lawsuit for injunctive relief to address these awful living conditions.

[**Rasho v. Jeffreys: Mental Health Care**](http://www.uplcchicago.org/what-we-do/prison/rasho-v-baldwin.html)

The Illinois Department of Corrections (IDOC) **punishes prisoners with mental illness**, rather than properly treating them, and the treatment that is available is grossly inadequate. In May 2016, we entered into a settlement agreement with IDOC to completely revamp the way people with serious mental illnesses are treated in Illinois prisons.

[**Lippert v. Jeffreys: Medical Care**](https://uplcchicagoorg.presencehost.net/what-we-do/prison/lippert-v-baldwin.html)

Health care in Illinois prisons is so inadequate that it constitutes **cruel and unusual punishment**. We are suing the Illinois Department of Corrections to fix the medical and dental care provided to Illinois prisoners.

[**Holmes v. Jeffreys: Deaf and Hard of Hearing Prisoners**](http://www.uplcchicago.org/what-we-do/prison/holmes-v-baldwin.html)

Uptown People's Law Center is suing the Illinois Department of Corrections for failing to provide Deaf and hard of hearing prisoners with interpreters, hearing aids, or other assistive devices, thus **depriving them of meaningful access to medical appointments, religious services, disciplinary hearings, and many other vital interactions with staff.**

[**Davis v. Jeffreys: Solitary Confinement**](https://uplcchicagoorg.presencehost.net/what-we-do/prison/davis-v-baldwin.html)

Illinois prisoners are confined, often for 24 hours a day, to small, airless cells with no natural light, reduced food, and minimal yard time. **Many are held in this extreme isolation for years.** We are suing the Illinois Department of Corrections to end this cruel and unusual punishment.

[**Ross v. Gossett: Excessive Force**](https://uplcchicagoorg.presencehost.net/what-we-do/prison/ross-v-gossett.html)

Uptown People's Law Center is suing the Illinois Department of Corrections on behalf of hundreds of prisoners who experienced excessive force, and physical and sexual assault at the hands of an abusive team of correctional officers called the**"Orange Crush tactical team."**

***Closed Cases:***

[**Westefer v. Snyder: Closing Tamms Supermax Prison**](https://uplcchicagoorg.presencehost.net/what-we-do/prison/westefer-v-snyder.html)**:**

Tamms Supermax Prison housed hundreds of prisoners in **round-the-clock solitary confinement.**UPLC sued, stating that prisoners were sent to Tamms as retaliation for speaking out against the Illinois Department of Corrections. In 2010, the District Court ruled that **every prisoner who had been sent to Tamms had been denied a hearing** which complied with the minimum requirements of due process. UPLC then led the fight which, three years later, permanently closed the prison.

[**MH v. Finley: Juvenile Parole**](https://www.uplcchicago.org/what-we-do/prison/mh-v-finley.html)

In January 2015, we settled a case that now **requires Illinois to provide attorneys (at the state's expense) to juveniles** who are accused of violating their parole.

[**Morales v. Monreal: Parole Revocation**](http://uplcchicagoorg.presencehost.net/what-we-do/prison/morales-v-monreal.html)

In October 2016, we settled a case that now requires Illinois to provide attorneys and adequate hearings to eligible parolees accused of violating parole. We are now monitoring the implementation of the settlement agreement.

[**Richard v. Pritzker: COVID In Prisons**](https://www.uplcchicago.org/what-we-do/prison/money.html)

            In April 2020, in response to the swiftly spreading coronavirus epidemic in Illinois' prisons, a consortium of the area's leading civil rights attorneys and community advocates filed three cases seeking release of prisoners. All three cases demand the swift release of those prisoners most vulnerable to the epidemic before they fall victim to it.