

PLAINTIFF STORIES

To arrange an interview with a plaintiff, please contact Neza Leal at (505) 307-5034 or neza@somosunpueblounido.org

The Honorable David Coss

David Coss is a long-time Santa Fe resident and former Mayor of Santa Fe. He is also the primary childcare provider for his small grandchildren and he is the guardian of his 86-year-old father who suffered a stroke last year. Coss was illegally denied a non-REAL ID license, or DAC, at the Santa Fe's MVD office during four separate visits because he could not find his social security card, even though the card is not required under state law. He took in many documents proving his identity and residency— enough to legally obtain the DAC, but was still denied. Furthermore, he was not provided a process to appeal MVD's decision. As a result, he can no longer drive lawfully and is unable to perform his everyday responsibilities to help his family.

Charlie Maldonado Jr.

Charlie Maldonado Jr. is a resident of Albuquerque. He is currently homeless and has not had an ID since 2012, when it was stolen. Maldonado was illegally denied a non-federally compliant ID card in January of 2017 because he could not provide a birth certificate—a document not required under state law. He spent almost a year trying to obtain his birth certificate. When he returned to MVD in October of 2017, he was told that he would have to change his name on his social security card to match his birth certificate. The MVD clerk told him both a social security card and a birth certificate are required to get a non-federally compliant ID card, which is incorrect. He was also not advised that he had the right to appeal the denial nor the process to do so. As a result, he has gone without a state-issued ID for over a year and has lost opportunities to work causing him to remain homeless.

Reyna Carmona Perez

Reyna Carmona Perez is a resident of Albuquerque. She lives with her husband and five minor children, all who depend on her for transportation and the income she earns from her job. Carmona Perez was illegally denied a non-REAL ID license, or DAC. She was told that she needed to correct a 17-year-old arrest record that had recorded her name as "Reyna Pérez Carmona," instead of "Reyna Carmona Pérez," in addition to incorrectly recording the date and month of her birth. She was not provided with information about the reasons for the denial nor information about how to appeal. As a result, she can no longer lawfully drive.

Raul Aaron Lara Martinez

Raul Aaron Lara Martinez is a resident of Santa Fe. He and his wife are expecting a child in March of 2018, and he needs to have a license to drive so he can work and support his family. Lara Martinez was illegally denied a non-REAL ID license, or DAC, in May, 2017. He was told that he needed to correct a 2009 arrest record that had recorded his name as “Aaron Lara,” instead of his full name, “Raul Aaron Lara Martínez.” He was also not provided with written notice from MVD containing the reasons for the denial or information about how to appeal. Nor did the MVD advise him of documentation that he could provide to resolve the basis of his ineligibility. As a result of MVD’s failure to provide due process, Plaintiff Lara Martinez cannot lawfully drive and his family is suffering because of it.

Elizabeth Lara

Elizabeth Lara is a Santa Fe resident. She has been a licensed New Mexico driver since 2004. Lara has two minor children, whom she must drive to school. Both of her children must attend regular medical appointments for allergies and vitamin shots. She must also drive herself to regular physical therapy and doctor’s appointments stemming from a workplace accident. Lara was illegally denied a non-REAL ID license, or DAC, four times by MVD even though she had presented all the required documents. She was also not provided with information about how to challenge the denial or the manner in which to appeal. As a result, she can no longer lawfully drive.

Drucilla Hager

Drucilla Hager is a resident of Albuquerque, New Mexico. She is 87-years-old and has limited mobility because of her age and a degenerative knee condition. In May 2017, she went to MVD to renew her license. The MVD clerk denied Hager a license because her middle name was spelled differently on her birth certificate than on her social security card. The MVD clerk incorrectly told her that both a social security card and birth certificate were necessary to get a DAC. She was not advised that she had the right to appeal. She could not drive to buy groceries or visit the doctor, and she had to rely on family members for assistance. In July of 2017, she became ill and postponed going to the doctor because she could not lawfully drive. And during a medical episode, she had to call the ambulance because she could not drive herself to the hospital. Hager eventually obtained a DAC, but only after an attorney intervened on her behalf. In the interim, she suffered great hardship.