



Contact: Aaron Slade / Novo Legal Group / 303.335.0250 / aslade@novo-legal.com

PRESS RELEASE – FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Elbert County, Colorado Sued After Deputies Forced Disabled Woman to Walk Miles Home in the Middle of the Night

(DENVER, CO. – July 23, 2024) Amy McCracken, a resident of Elbert County, Colorado, who walks with the assistance of a prosthetic right leg and has limited mobility as a result, sued the county for violations of her rights under Title II of the Americans with Disabilities Act and the Colorado Anti-Discrimination Act alleging sheriff’s deputies forced her to walk nearly 10 miles to her home in the middle of the night.

Around 3:00AM August 2, 2022, Elbert County Sheriff’s Office deputies refused to give Ms. McCracken a ride home after ordering her to leave the Elbert County Jail. The jail is located in Kiowa, Colorado, an unincorporated town with a population of 746 people. There are no public transportation services in the town of Kiowa, and no private transportation services such as Uber or Lyft operate there. Faced with no other option and following the orders from the deputies to leave the jail, Ms. McCracken had no choice but to walk 8.8 miles to her home on uneven dirt and gravel roads in the middle of the night. Walking such a distance on her prosthetic limb left Ms. McCracken with severe injuries.

Deputies had arrested Ms. McCracken around 9:30 PM on August 1, 2022 while she drove home because her driver license erroneously displayed as revoked when it should have been merely in restricted status. With a restricted license, Ms. McCracken could have lawfully driven her car that night; however, with a revoked license, Ms. McCracken was not allowed to drive at all. Because of the error, county officials towed Ms. McCracken’s car to an impound lot in Castle Rock, Colorado, an approximately 45-minute, 25-mile drive away.

At the Elbert County Jail, officers denied Ms. McCracken a phone call until approximately 2:00AM on August 2, 2022. At such a late hour, Ms. McCracken was unable to reach any family or friends to give her a ride home. After arranging payment of her bond, allowing her release, Ms. McCracken asked deputies if they could give her a ride home. The deputies refused and told her that she “had to” leave the premises.

Ms. McCracken retained [Novo Legal Group, LLC](#), to represent her in her efforts to vindicate her rights. Ms. McCracken’s [complaint](#), filed today in federal court, alleges that Elbert County failed to modify its services to accommodate her disability and limited mobility. “In our view, the Elbert County Sheriff’s Office—the very entity that promises to provide protection and service to its community members, utterly failed to provide adequate and equal service to Ms. McCracken because of her disability” said Aaron Slade, Ms. McCracken’s attorney at Novo Legal Group. “We hope that our lawsuit can not only compensate Ms. McCracken for her injuries but further the dialog about systemic change in how law enforcement officials interact with members of our community who live with disabilities.”