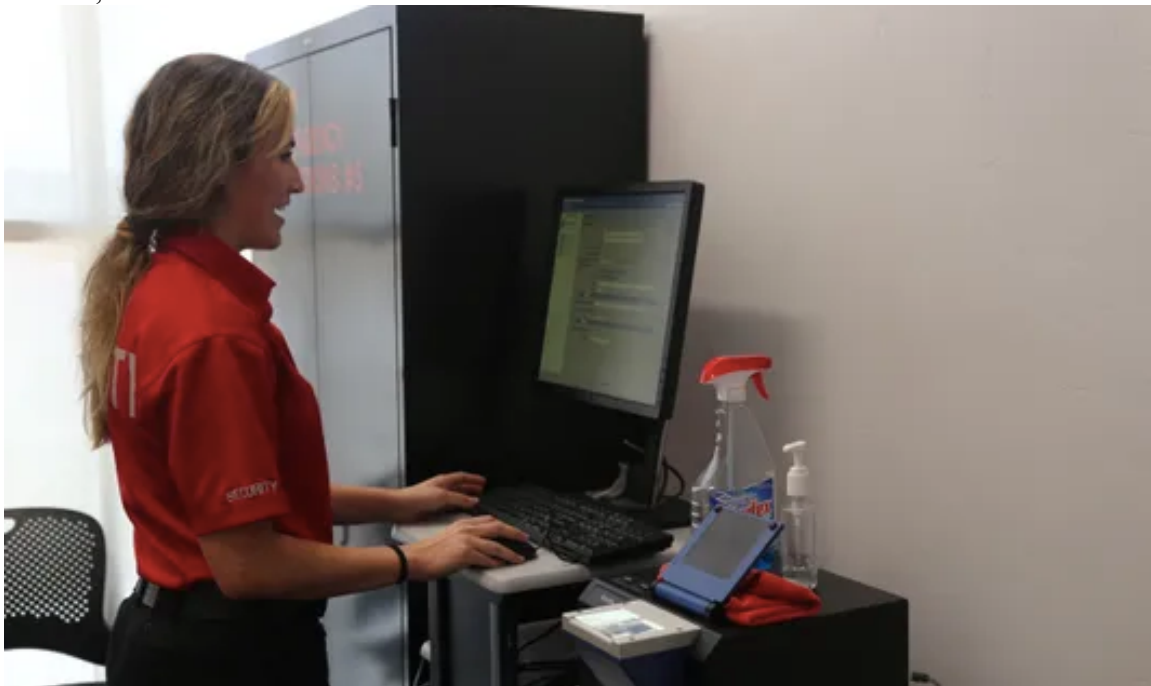


# ACLU partners with DSU Police to provide fingerprinting for DACA recipients

Link: <https://www.thespectrum.com/story/news/2019/06/14/aclu-dsu-police-fingerprinting-daca-recipients/1445604001/>

Written by Emily Havens  
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**Mikaela Vega, with Dixie State University's Campus Police Department, demonstrates how to use the digital fingerprinting machine. (Photo: Emily Havens / The Spectrum & Daily News)**

The American Civil Liberties Union has partnered with Dixie State University's Campus Police to offer a new service to DACA recipients and immigrants.

Individuals who are classified under the Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals policy and other immigrants are required to have a driving privilege card if they plan to operate a vehicle in the U.S.

Part of the process toward obtaining a driving privilege card involves the applicant getting his or her fingerprints recorded — and it must be done through a law enforcement agency.

After representatives from ACLU reached out to several law enforcement agencies in Washington County asking if they can offer the service, DSU Police answered the call. Officers at DSU Police were trained shortly after being contacted by Sydni Makemo, a representative with the ACLU of Utah in February.

Prior to DSU's involvement, the only other provider of this service was based in Iron County, which had very limited hours.



**Dixie State University Campus Police provides digital fingerprinting services for a minimal fee to those who need it, including DACA recipients and other immigrants.** (Photo: Emily Havens / *The Spectrum & Daily News*)

Makemo said this service will help hundreds of DACA recipients and immigrants in Southern Utah.

"We noticed that getting your fingerprints done for a drivers privilege card was something that people weren't able to do in Washington County," Makemo said. "It was crazy because these people can't drive ... There were a lot of hoops to jump through." Makemo said it was "a struggle" to find an agency that was willing to offer the fingerprinting service.

"As soon as I called DSU Police, they said, 'Of course,'" Makemo said. "They didn't know this was a need in the community."

"We said there is absolutely no reason for us not to provide this service," DSU Police Chief Blair Barfuss said.

Barfuss said the service doesn't just benefit DACA recipients, but it also provides the service to anyone who needs fingerprinting done. Some academic programs, such as the nursing program at DSU, require their students to get fingerprinting done.

"We're all about providing the resource to anyone at any time," Barfuss said. According to Makemo, the drivers privilege card helps DACA recipients maintain their student status and/or employment status.

"Regardless of your legal status, if you're going to be on the road, I want you to have a license because I want you to have insurance," Makemo said. "If you're going to be out there driving, I want you to have insurance to protect me and my family ... I don't care what your stance (on DACA or immigration) is, everybody needs this. It's important."

Barfuss said his department made it a priority to offer the service at a minimal cost to those who need it. Individuals — DACA recipients or otherwise — looking for fingerprinting services are instructed to go online to make an appointment and pay a \$20 fee at [publicsafety.dixie.edu](http://publicsafety.dixie.edu).