

Date: _____

To: Commissioner, Georgia Department of Corrections
300 Patrol Road
Forsyth, GA 31029

Subject: Retaliation & Conspiracy to Violate Inmates' First Amendment Rights
RE: _____ (facility name)

Dear Commissioner,

The primary problem concerns Georgia Department of Corrections (GDC) Officials' conspiratorial practice to violate inmates' First Amendment Right. Part of this practice consists of manifold reprisals and deliberate disregard for rules and regulations which govern their duty to receive, process and answer inmate grievance[s] in compliance with GDC "Statewide Grievance Procedure" (SOP 227.02).

When we exercise use of the grievance procedure, GDC Officials join together to harass and retaliate against us with a combination of any of the following unethical acts. I have personally experienced the harassment which I have marked with an X:

- 1) Refuse to answer grievances.
- 2) Refuse to give receipt for grievances.
- 3) Claim to never have received grievance from inmate.
- 4) Claim to return grievance to inmate (inmate never receives grievance).
- 5) Refuse to return grievance within mandated time (40 days).
- 6) Refuse to properly investigate grievance.
- 7) No method for inmate to follow up on a grievance.
- 8) Reporting deliberate false information in the course of responding to grievance.
- 9) Punitive and harassing cell searches in response to filing grievances.
- 10) Intra-facility, intra-housing unit inter-cell transfers; reclassification, subsequent unassignment, and disregard for reassignment, etc.
- 11) Appeals being sent and heard by parties directly involved in the original complaint.
- 12) Failure to provide significant way for segregated inmates access to grievance forms.
- 13) Failure to provide significant way for segregated inmates to turn in grievances.
- 14) Grievances denied automatically without substantive explanation or legitimacy according to GDC policies.

Such acts of moral turpitude are some of the dirty tricks used in their collusive practice of reprisals. They are concerted acts which violate the conspiracy laws of Title 42 U.S.C. 1995(3) and 1986. They are underhanded attempts to assail our efforts to be heard - to frustrate our use of the grievance procedure - and render the "vehicle for review" ineffective. Thus, we become disturbed with a mental anguish that compels us to grab and adopt other means and channels through which to seek and obtain resolution.

The United States Supreme Court requires inmates to exhaust administrative review before entering the arena of judicial review. However, this process becomes

unfairly difficult when GDC Officials tamper with the appeals process.

GDC Officials should understand and respect the reality (Law) that grievances filed through an official grievance procedure are constitutionally protected and deliberate interference with its procedure may result in civil or prosecutorial penalty.

Conclusion

This problem permeates the prison population and adversely affects numerous inmates. Some inmates decline to use the grievance procedure due to fear of reprisals. Others have witnessed uncorrected problems that fellow inmates continue to experience and feel the use of the grievance procedure lacks corrective action. Nevertheless, I persist in spite of the onslaught of reprisals. I suffer from many of the aforementioned unethical acts. I also have unanswered grievances in desperate need of location and resolution.

Therefore, I request a thorough and appropriate investigation to ascertain necessary facts to correct this unlawful problem.

Respectfully Submitted,

Signature: _____
Name, ID#: _____

Additional Information (Log #, comments, description of event, etc.): _____

CC: Southern Center for Human Rights Law Offices, 83 Poplar St. NW, Atlanta, GA
30303-2122
GDC Office of Internal Affairs, Investigation and Compliance, PO Box 1529,
Forsyth, GA 31029
U.S. Department of Justice - Civil Rights Division, Special Litigation Section, 950
Pennsylvania Avenue, NW, PHB, Washington, DC 20530

(Cross out the name above if you were not able to send them a copy of your signed petition.)