

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

To: Secretary of Louisiana Department of Corrections (DOC)

Subject: Retaliation and Conspiracy to violate inmates' First Amendment Rights

RE: \_\_\_\_\_(facility name)

Dear Secretary,

The primary problem addressed in this letter concerns Louisiana Department of Public Safety and Corrections (LDPSC) Officials' conspiratorial practice to violate inmates' First Amendment rights. Part of this practice consists of manifold reprisals and deliberate disregard for rules, regulations and policies which govern their duty to receive, process and answer inmate grievance[s] (ARPs) in compliance with LDPSC regulations, No. B-05-005.

According to the LDPSC Administrative Remedy Procedure manual, the purpose of the formal grievance/ARP is to: "Provide a way for an [inmate] to seek formal review of department policies, procedures, practices, conditions, incidents and actions if less formal methods have not resolved the matter," and to "Provide through this procedure, [inmates] shall receive reasonable responses and where appropriate, meaningful remedies."

However, when we exercise use of the ARP/grievance procedure, LDPSC officials join together to harass and retaliate against us with a combination of the following unethical acts. I have personally experienced the harassment which I have marked with an X:

- \_\_\_ 1) Refuse to answer ARP
- \_\_\_ 2) Refuse to give receipt for ARP
- \_\_\_ 3) Claim to never have received ARP
- \_\_\_ 4) Failure to respond in a timely manner, utilizing entire time period as a manipulative tool to delay response; and not providing adequate relief for ANY grievance regardless of the nature, merits etc.
- \_\_\_ 5) Dishonesty in "Screening Out" ARP (this unethical method is used in the "rejection criteria" to obstruct the ARP from ever being processed)
- \_\_\_ 6) Reporting deliberate false information in the course of responding to ARP
- \_\_\_ 7) Punitive and harassing cell searches and other malicious acts to dissuade submittal and/or to influence or coerce the withdrawal of ARP
- \_\_\_ 8) ARPs being sent and heard by parties directly involved and/or named in the original complaint

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 ARP/grievance procedure - and render the "Purpose of 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 LDPSC officials tamper with and/or maliciously delay the ARP/grievance process. LDPSC officials should understand and respect the reality (law) that grievances filed through an official grievance procedure are constitutionally protected and deliberate indifference and/or 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 ARP/grievance procedure due to fear of reprisals. Others have witnessed uncorrected problems that fellow inmates continue to experience and feel the use of the ARP system lacks corrective action. Nevertheless, I persist in spite of the onslaught of reprisals. I suffer from many of the aforementioned acts.

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.):

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- cc:
- Secretary of the LDPSC, PO Box 94304, Baton Rouge, LA 70804-9304
- Office of Internal Affairs LDPSC, PO Box 94304, Baton Rouge, LA 70804-9304
- Chief of Operations LDPSC, PO Box 94304, Baton Rouge, LA 70804-9304
- U.S. Department of Justice - Civil Rights Division, Special Litigation Section, 950 Pennsylvania Ave. NW, PHB, Washington, DC 20530
- Office of LA Inspector General, 602 N. 5th St. Suite 621, Baton Rouge, LA 70802 LA
- State Ethics Board, 617 N. 3rd St., LaSalle bldg, Suite 621, Baton Rouge, LA 70802

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