

Date:

To: Directors Office
Michigan Department of Corrections
Grandview Plaza
P.O. Box 30003
Lansing, MI 48909

Subject: Retaliation & Conspiracy to violate inmates first amendment rights
Facility name & address:

Dear Inspector General,

The primary problem concerns prison officials' conspiratorial practice to violate inmates' first amendment right. Part of this practice consists manifold reprisals and deliberate disregard for rules and regulations which govern their duty to receive, process, review, and answer inmate grievances in compliance with M.D.O.C. policy and United States law.

When we exercise use of the grievance procedure, prison 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've marked with an X.

- 1. Refuse to answer grievance.
- 2. Refuse to give receipt for grievance.
- 3. Claim to never have received grievance from inmate.
- 4. Use of official channels and/or bureaucratic loopholes to manipulate improper, excessive, and repetitive delays.
- 5. Detaching inmates supporting documents from grievance and returning grievance unprocessed/denied due to lack of supporting documents.
- 6. Dishonesty in "screening out" grievance/not giving reasons for rejection. This unethical method is used in the rejection criteria to obstruct the grievance from being processed.
- 7. Reporting deliberate false information in the course of responding to grievance.
- 8. Punitive and harassing searches of cell and/or persons, including strip searches and mock pack-ups.
- 9. Intra-facility, intra-housing unit/cell moves. Reclassification and/or reassignment.
- 10. Grievance being sent and heard by parties directly involved in the original complaint.
- 11. Appeals not going through the proper channels/officials per M.D.O.C. policy.
- 12. Grievance coordinator miscategorizing issues stated in grievance.
- 13. Officers intercepting and disposing of grievances from mailbox before they get to the grievance coordinator.
- 14. Other:

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, and to frustrate our use of the grievance process, 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 all administrative remedies before entering the arena of judicial review. However, this process becomes unfairly difficult when M.D.O.C. officials tamper with the grievance/appeals process. Another difficulty arises from the four to six months it takes to exhaust all three steps of the grievance process.

Prison officials should understand and respect the reality (law) that grievances filed through an official grievance process are constitutionally protected, and deliberate interference with its procedure may result in civil or criminal penalty.

Conclusion

This problem permeates the prison population and adversely affects numerous inmates. Some inmates decline to use the grievance process due to the fear of reprisals. Others have witnessed uncorrected problems that inmates continue to experience and feel the use of the grievance process 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 and uncorrected grievances in desperate need of location and/or resolution.

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

Respectfully Submitted,

Signature:

Name & I.D. #:

Citations for relevant Department policies and/or operating procedures that have been violated, i.e. (Michigan Department of Corrections Policy Directive: 03.02.130 - Prisoner/parolees grievances).

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

CC: Legislative Corrections Ombudsman Office, PO Box 30036, Lansing, MI 48909

Warden or Supervisor at your facility (name and address) : _____

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