

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

To: Director of Corrections  
PO Box 21787  
Columbia, SC 29221-1787

Subject: Relations & Conspiracy to Violate inmate's First Amendment Rights  
Re: \_\_\_\_\_ (Facility Name)

Dear Director,

The Fundamental problem being experienced by prisoners concerns the South Carolina Department of Corrections (SCDC) officials; misfeasance and deliberate practice to breach prisoners' First Amendment Right. These violations are primarily, though not limited to, multiple reprisal and calculated indifference for policy and procedures which regulate officers' obligation to receive, process and answer inmate grievances (10-5 forms) in compliance with South Carolina annotated 24-1-140, South Carolina Code of Regulations, 33.1, and the Civil Rights of Institutionalized Persons Act (CRIPA).

In conformity to SCDC Policy GA-01.12, the purpose of the Inmate Grievance System is to: "Establish guidelines for the development and implementation of an inmate grievance system whereby inmates may seek formal review of complaints relative to disciplinary hearing appeals, department policies/procedures, directives or conditions which directly affect an inmate." Its Policy Statement adds "At minimum the grievance system will be designed to provide inmates with a mechanism by which they may seek formal review of their complaints; provide a vehicle for internal solutions at the level having the most direct contract contact with the inmate; and to provide a means for management review of staff decision and policies/procedures that may be the source of a compliant."

However, as we exert our right to use the grievance procedure, SCDC Official's routinely coalesce in collaboration to retaliate and harass prisoners in attempts to thwart our endeavors to redress any grievances (in violation of SCDC Policy OP-22.15 and GA-01.12). Tactics of dissuasion include a particular or combination of any of the following immoral acts. I have personally encounter the harassment which I have marked with an X:

- \_\_\_ 1) Refuse to answer 10-5 Form (violation of GA-01.12).
- \_\_\_ 2) Refuse to give receipts for 10.5 Form.
- \_\_\_ 3) Claim to have never received 10-5 Form from inmate
- \_\_\_ 4) Claim to have returned 10-5 Form to inmate (inmate never receives 10-5 Form).
- \_\_\_ 5) Misuse of the inmate appeals screening process to manipulate, misuse, or misapply improper, excessive and repetitive delays.
- \_\_\_ 6) Detaching inmate's supporting documents from 10-5 Form and returning 10-5 Form to inmate with written statement refusing to process 10-5 because no supporting documents accompany 10-5.
- \_\_\_ 7) Claim that inmate has abandoned grievance when inmate has followed up on a grievance.
- \_\_\_ 8) Reporting deliberate false information in the course of responding to 10-5 Form.
- \_\_\_ 9) Inability to "substantiate claims" for grievance to be corrected due to partiality shown to officers' statement and claims of inmate's "unreliability."
- \_\_\_ 10) Grievance/grievant being revealed to SCDC Official referenced in 10-5 Form complaint, violating confidentiality clause (OP-22.15, GA-01.12; 4)
- \_\_\_ 11) Inmate grievance coordinator refusal to investigate any/every allege incident, as required, (GA-01.12, 5.1) and referring investigations to Warden.
- \_\_\_ 12) Punitive and harassing cell searches and/or withholding mail from targeted prisoners to dissuade submitting of a grievance, and/or instigate other prisoners to oppose using the grievance process to influence or coerce the withdrawal of 10-5 Form (OP-22.15 violation).
- \_\_\_ 13) Intra-facility, intra-housing unit, inter-cell transfers, loss of job assignment, reclassification used as retaliation.

\_\_\_ 14) Appeals being sent/heard by parties directly involved in the original complaint

Such acts moral turpitude are surreptitiously imposed as a strategy to practice revenge against prisoners. They are in collusion to inhibit our efforts to be meaningfully heard to frustrate our use of the grievance system - and to render the "vehicle for review" ineffective, which violates the conspiracy laws of Title 42 U.S.C. 1995 (3) and 1986. In response, we become mentally discomposed and through desperation we are compelled to adopt alternate means and channels through which seek and obtain relief.

The US Supreme Court requires prisoners to exhaust administrative remedies before entering the arena of judicial review. Yet, this process becomes unfairly formidable when SCDC officials manipulate or influence with the appeals process.

SCDC officials must understand and respect the fact that grievances filed through the official grievance process are constitutionally protected and deliberate indifference with its procedure may result in civil or prosecutorial penalty.

This conundrum permeates South Carolina prisons and adversely affects countless prisoners. Some inmates are discouraged from use of the grievance system due to fear of reprisals, while others have observed uncorrected issues that fellow prisoners continue to suffer and rightfully feel the use of grievances lack corrective action. I endure many of the aforementioned unethical acts, nevertheless I abide in spite of the onslaught of punitive retributions. In addition, I still have unanswered 10-5s in desperate need of discovery and resolution.

Therefore, I request a thorough, substantial and significant investigation to ascertain necessary facts to rectify this unlawful problem.

Respectfully submitted,

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Name, ID#: \_\_\_\_\_

Additional information (Log #, comment, description of event[s], etc.): \_\_\_\_\_

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CC: Officer of General Counsel, PO Box 21787, Columbia SC 29221-1787  
US 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 unable to send them a copy of your signed petition)*