

SWORN STATEMENT NO.31-2

FROM PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY JAIL

We do not have cell phone footage of abuses inside prisons and jails. I am reading the following sworn testimony from a person held in the Prince George's County Jail to lift this veil of secrecy and hold our justice system accountable.

I am currently incarcerated in the Prince George's County Jail in Upper Marlboro.

When I tell jail staff that something is wrong with my body, they don't respond quickly. They don't acknowledge the urgency of my health issues. Actually, I haven't seen them respond to anyone's health needs in a timely fashion.

One guy came into isolation cell 7 on Wednesday, June 3. He was throwing up, and he would not stop throwing up. For three days straight, he did not stop throwing up. When he first came in, he had a muscular build. But when the jail finally called for an EMS evacuation, he was skin and bones. He had lost so much weight. I couldn't believe it. It seemed like they should have called EMS and brought him to a hospital much sooner.

If someone is really sick and the jail doesn't know what's going on or doesn't have the medication or capacity to help them, they need to send that person to a hospital. But it seems the jail tries really hard not to send people to the hospital. Because this inmate was in an isolation cell, the jail wouldn't let him use the phones.

The jail wouldn't let him do anything - no phone, no shower. They wouldn't let him leave his cell because he was "contaminated." No one labeled contaminated in isolation is ever let out of their cells to shower or use the phones or anything. So this guy had no way to contact his family and let them know what was going on, that he was really sick and the jail wasn't doing anything to help him.

So he told another inmate, a guy in the ten-person cell, to call his mother for him. This inmate called the guy's mother for him and told her what was going on with her son. His mom got really upset when she heard about everything. She called the nurses desk to complain, and after she called and complained several times, that was when the jail finally called EMS.

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The jail staff were angry that the guy's mother was called by this other inmate. So they moved him from the ten-person cell to an isolation cell in the medical unit to punish him. When they moved him, they said to him: "You had no business calling that guy's mom, so now you're going into the iso cell."

Sometimes the COs will take away the rec time to punish inmates - if one guy in my rec group gets in trouble, for example, that could mean our whole rec group loses our hour.