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Date: 3/10/2015 8:29:45 PM
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Subject: Trying to help inmates has turned in to an extreme reaction by Officer

Please forward copy to:

Warden Cohen, Ridgland CI
Associate Warden Burton
Inmate Grievances
Michael McCall
Bryan Stirling

John Springer, 294365, request to speak to Warden Cohen concerning the problems stated below.

March 9, 2015 I sent the email below in good faith. This has turned into a crisis of which lacks common sense, logic and was handle in such a manner to cause problems that should have never happened. If someone had simply gone to John Springer and told him he could not have over 10 magazine and that he had to pick the ones he wanted to keep and removed the others, would have been the sensible thing to do. No, Lieutenant Washington had to cross the line, go over board and out side of policy in has actions.

Was Office Washington ordered to take such extremes actions? If so, who was behind this extreme behavior? Why wasn't John Springer given a list of everything taken out of has room by Washington, per policy? Why was John's roommate moved out and no one else but it.

On the afternoon of March 8th an officer went in John Springer's Ridgeland and took picture of the magazine related in the email. This afternoon Officer Washington went into John Springer's room and did not just search it but trashed the room. His actions were EXTREME to say the least.

Account by John Springer, 294365

At about 3:15 this afternoon Lt. Washington came in my room and ORDERED me to unlock my locker and step out of the room. Sgt. Doe accompanied him. They both being searching my room. Doe had brought a milk crate with him so it was obvious they were planning to take stuff. Washington took all of my magazines and put them in the crate. He then started putting various pieces of property and canteen items that I had purchased. When I asked him what the problem was and why he was taking things that belong to me, such as my typing paper that I need to prepare my legal work, he demanded that I produce a receipt for it. I have over two years of receipts and have purchased typing paper several times. I could not find the one for that particular item so he took it. There is no policy that requires an inmate to keep their receipt once they are clear of the canteen. By taking my stuff Washington committed theft. He also is required to inventory any items he takes that he believes are contraband. Policy requires it be done on a standard inventory sheet and a copy of it be given to the inmate.

Washington refused to do either. When I asked him why he took my Porta-pro head set he claimed that I did not have on but he had it right there in the crate he was holding. He left my room in shambles and was absolutely unprofessional. In fact, he was nothing but a bully about the whole thing. He refused to speak to me and slammed and locked the sally-port door in my face. It was obvious to all that he derived great pleasure from doing this to me.

I have sent many email regarding problems with Officer Washington. NOTHING, and I mean NOTHING, has ever come of any complaint. John has reported on the systems about problems he and other inmates had regarding Officer Washington. Every answer from Major Gary Eichelberger is , "See your doom Lieutenant". The complaint is about the doom Lieutenant!!! Eichelberger, months ago, suggested that Washington and Springer sit down with him and figure out the problem. Eichelberger never followed through.

Moving John Springer to Georgetown or Charleston dorm, away from Lieutenant Washington would seem a reasonable request. Beaufort is the bad dorm, if John were to be moved there it would show a problem between the Major and John using Beaufort as a punishment, not to solve a problem. When I sent the email below I had NO idea that an inmate could only have 10 magazines. I thought I was helping many inmates by ordering magazines. So I was the one that caused this problem in the first place by trying to "DO GOOD", to help all inmates in the SCDC prison system. Some people at Ridgeland have turned this into a Big Bad Ugly Problem.

I have asked for a copy of the SCDC Policies many times and always get a run around, see the IG, no see Operations, no, we don't allow the public to see our policy's. That's what I have gotten. How can I follow any policies if I don't know what they are!!! They are not on the web! I've looked. I also get, John knows the policies and no inmate "knows the policies", because they are not consistent. Each prison, each dorm, each officer has their own policies. And what is worse is not everyone has to follow the policy.

The dorm Lieutenant Washington has drunks, pot smokers, shanks galore. Then there is the inmate that has reported to Washington Sexual harassment from an inmate many times. Washington just laughs at him. Lieutenant Washington is a bully!!! He has even made the remark, "this is my dorm and the Warden has no say so over me or it". Wow! There is total lack of Consistency in the dorm overseen by Lieutenant Washington.

Now why has John Springer been singled out for having too many magazines and not others for not following policy? Why does Officer Washington take John Springer's new batteries that he just purchased at the canteen and the rim of paper. Washington took all the magazines and did not count them or even leave the 10 allowed. Where is the inventory list per policy. Is John just one of many white males that are discriminated against in the SCDC prisons? I see this through-out the many prisons that I have visited and had contact with.

I was told today by the Operations office Sandra, that SCDC needs consistency throughout SCDC inmates. Policy says the SCDC has to have a clean environment, they don't. A safe environment, they don't. Broken showers, walls that need paint. So why when a person is trying to do something good for the good of all is his room trashed, items taken from his room that he has the right to have under policy, not getting a list of items taken from him? Policy, sorry the policy line doesn't hold water when the policy only goes one way. Don't use "Policy" line with me. Someone in SCDC please get some common sense!! If the policies aren't working, or abused, change them for goodness sake!!!

Is this small thing been over blown? Is this what my email started?

I talked to Associate Warden Burton and asked him to look into the situation and call me back. He said he would. Burton did not talk to John Springer and he did not call me back. But from the office of operations down to the prison's themselves, I have been told many times, "me or someone from this office will call you back". The Warden at Kirkland is not just one that did, but I have his phone number. Others have NOT. The office of Operations told me today, "someone from this office will call you back". My number is 803-459-1040. My email address is ginger_hurst@hotmail.com<mailto:ginger_hurst@hotmail.com>.

Ridgeland is one of the better prisons in SC. There is always few bad eggs that cause problems. Warden Cohen is doing a good job but there are some people under him that just don't do there jobs and are problems. If there is anything I can do to be of service to Warden Cohen or any other person in SCDC please do not hesitate to contact me.

Katherine Hurst
Mother of John Springer 294365
803-459-1040
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From: ginger_hurst@hotmail.com
To: mccall.michael@doc.sc.gov; corrections.info@doc.state.sc.us
CC: ginger_hurst@hotmail.com
Subject: Need Help Please in scdc mailrooms
Date: Mon, 9 Mar 2015 10:35:44 -0400

Please forward copy to
Inmate Mail Service: Jessica Edmond
Warden, Ridgeland CI
Inmate Grievances

Problem at the Ridgeland Mailroom. What can be done to correct or help me with a solution?
A Free Service provided to all inmates at Ridgeland Threatened

Mail room at Ridgeland

My son, John Springer, provides a service to All inmates at Ridgeland Correctional. I have ordered over 30 monthly magazine to be sent to him. Some of these magazine

are of no interest to him, but other inmate such as magazines in Spanish, black culture, entertainment.

John has a system where he hand logs in each magazine when it comes in. Inmates than can check a magazine out. He knows who has each copy.

When the inmate returns the magazine it is checked back in for other inmates to use. At a point the magazine are than donated to the Ridgeland library for

all inmates to have access to.

PROBLEM: When I order the magazines I give the proper information to the company per SCDC policy's. It takes 6-8 weeks for any corrections or changes to an address.

There is only so much room on a label. I have NO control how the address label is printed by the magazine company.

The lady in the mailroom at Ridgeland has threatened to CANCEL the magazine within 30 days OR LESS since she says the address is not per SCDC policy.

The labels contains all the information needed to make proper deliver to the institution and to John. John nor I have any control over how the company addresses

the magazines with the information they require and are given. We have no control over how long any changes will take to correct or change, but it takes 6-8 weeks.

Information given

subscription address boxes

first

last name. They will not allow any number in these files

Street address

other address information. I always give them "Ridgeland, SC 27, the inmate number

Sometimes company name, which I put Ridgeland

City

State

Zip code

I feel the mailroom is telling the inmate 1. the changes must be made 2. in a required time frame, which they have no control over. What needs to be changed or corrected is not addressed, only they have some much time to make changes.

This is unreasonable. The service is to all inmates at MY expense. I get nothing out of this than to help inmates that are unable to have access other wise. Please advice me what to do, help correct this problem with in the mailrooms. What other actions I can take.