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LEGAL MAIL - CONFIDENTIAL

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Dear Sir or Madam:

Thank you for contacting our office. This letter is to update you on the status of *Parsons v. Ryan*, the federal lawsuit regarding problems with the Arizona Department of Corrections' (ADC) medical, mental health, and dental care. The suit also challenges inhumane conditions in the Special Management Units. This case is as a "class action" which means it covers all prisoners in the ten ADC prisons. The case was filed in March 2012 by the Prison Law Office, the ACLU, the Arizona Center for Disability Law, and two law firms, Perkins Coie and Jones Day.

On October 14, 2014, the parties told the court that they had reached a settlement of the case. Under the settlement, ADC must fix its health care system and meet more than 100 performance measures, including health care for prisoners with chronic medical conditions; specialty care; care for mentally ill prisoners; and dental care. The settlement also requires ADC to overhaul the rules for prisoners with serious mental illnesses in isolation. Instead of spending all but six hours a week in their cells, such prisoners will now have a minimum of 19 hours a week outside the cell, and this time must include mental health treatment and other programming. ADC must also restrict guards' use of pepper spray on these prisoners, using it only as a last resort when necessary to prevent serious injury or escape. The settlement calls for ongoing monitoring by the prisoners' lawyers to make sure the state complies with its terms. The settlement is at <http://prisonlaw.com/pdfs/14.10.14StipandExhibits.pdf>. If you do not have Internet access, please write us back and request a copy of the settlement agreement.

Class action status means these changes will apply to all prisoners in ADC custody. If you are a prisoner in ADC custody, you do not have to do anything else to be part of the class. **We did not seek money damages, and prisoners will not receive any money as a result of the settlement.** The lawsuit sought only injunctive relief, which means changes to the policies and practices of ADC. When the judge certified the case as a class action, he appointed us to represent all prisoners only with regard to the case. We may be able to notify ADC's attorneys if we learn of prisoners with proof of serious and urgent untreated health care needs that could lead to death or permanent injury. If you have an urgent health care need, send us copies (not originals) of any HNRs, grievances, or other documents that you think would be of use to us. We will review and return the documents. Other than notifying ADC, we cannot assist with your individual health care concern. Thank you for your interest in the case, and we wish you the best.

Sincerely,

Prison Law Office

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