



PRISON LAW OFFICE

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Dear Sir or Madam:

This letter responds to your letter to this office concerning your dental care. Any documents that you sent are returned. We apologize for this form letter, but it is the only way this office can quickly reply given the large number of letters we receive.

As you may know, this office filed a lawsuit on behalf of all California state prisoners with serious dental needs, *Perez v. Cate* in 2005. The 2006 Stipulated Injunction in that action required the state to improve the delivery of dental care by, among other things, implementing comprehensive Dental Policies & Procedures (copies available in your prison law library), making emergency dental care available 24 hours a day, developing a computerized tracking program, and completing necessary dental construction. It also permitted this office to advocate on behalf of class members with urgent dental needs, and those who had exhausted their administrative remedies regarding dental concerns. Court-appointed Dental Experts audited the dental programs at each of the state prisons from 2010-2012 and determined that each of the prisons has successfully complied with the Court orders, except the provisions regarding construction.

Based on the defendants' compliance, the Court on August 20, 2012 ordered that the case be dismissed, and all provisions of the Stipulated Injunction be terminated, except for the provisions related to dental clinic renovation and construction. If the defendants fail to comply with the construction provisions, plaintiffs are authorized to seek an enforcement order with the Court. Because the case has been dismissed, the action is essentially over. This office cannot advocate for individual prisoners under the *Perez* lawsuit.

If you experience disabling dental pain, please let any staff person know that you require emergency dental attention, and you should be seen immediately. If you currently have dental problems, we encourage you to submit a 7362 sick call form requesting dental care. Patients who list urgent symptoms, such as pain, bleeding or swelling, must be seen by the dental staff within three business days for dental triage and/or treatment.

If you are not able to get the dental care you need, we encourage you to submit a 602-HC and, if you are not satisfied with the response, to pursue the appeal through all levels of the response. If this does not resolve your problem, you may wish to consider filing a petition for writ of habeas corpus in the Superior Court. We will provide you with a manual on how to draft a petition upon request. This office will also review any Third Level Response you send to determine if we can assist further.

The Prison Law Office

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