



PRISON LAW OFFICE

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Dear Sir/Madam:

We received your letter about problems in the Riverside jails. This letter describes our Riverside jail lawsuit, tells you what we can and can't do to help, and what you can do to help yourself. Any documents that you sent are returned. We apologize for sending you a form letter, but it is the only way we can quickly reply, given the large number of letters we receive.

We filed *Gray v. County of Riverside* to improve medical and mental health care in the jails and to stop the county from discriminating based on disability. It is a class action, which means that it covers problems for all people in the jails in these areas. If you are in jail in Riverside, you are automatically covered by the lawsuit. If you wrote to us about problems in the jail that are not related to medical or mental health care or a physical disability, we cannot help you, but we are sending you any handouts we have that we think may be helpful.

The County agreed to settle the case, and we worked out a detailed list of measures they must take to improve health care and mental health care and stop discriminating based on disabilities. We filed the proposed settlement with the Court, and on April 28, 2016 the Court granted final approval of the settlement. The County is now required to make the improvements set out in the Consent Decree and Remedial Plan agreed upon by The Prison Law Office and the County. Copies of those documents are enclosed here.

We are able to raise some immediate health care problems with the County to try to get them solved, but are generally only able to advocate if (1) you have filed a grievance and pursued it to the highest level of review and we think our intervention might be helpful or (2) you have an urgent unmet medical or mental health need. An urgent condition is one for which significant injury or death will result if not properly treated. Most concerns, even if serious and important, are not urgent.

Based on the information you sent, we have decided you need to file a grievance before we can consider raising your case with jail officials. We enclose information about grievances in the Riverside jails. We will reconsider if you send us an exhausted grievance response or if it becomes urgent.

We are sorry we can't give you individual help at this time, but we very much hope that the settlement in the *Gray* case will result in much better care for everyone. We wish you the best.

The Prison Law Office

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