



# NORCOR CORRECTIONS FACILITIES

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Mat dos Santos  
ACLU Legal Director  
PO BOX 40585  
Portland, OR 97240

September 15, 2017

Re: "Unconstitutional conditions of confinement for immigration detainees at NORCOR"

Mr. Santos:

It is unfortunate that you have chosen to not verify with myself or my management staff the claims that you are putting forth regarding this facility. I would have been more than willing to walk you through the jail and to provide you with the documentation that shows your allegations to be unfounded and in truth, false. Your claims of unconstitutional confinement and legal violations are not grounded in fact or substance and are based on interviews alone, frankly I am surprised that you would put forth such false claims without substantial documentation to back them up. However, in an effort to avoid your threat of legal action I will provide you with responses to these allegations. It should be noted that all responses have documentation to support them.

## I. Applicable Legal Standards

NORCOR is a pre-trial detention center that meets or exceeds all applicable standards for a detention facility. We have met full compliance with OSSA's Oregon Jail standards, conducted in 2015, as well as ICE's National Detention Standards, conducted in Sept of 2011. Both of these Jail standard compliance reviews are scheduled again for this November. We constantly and consistently review our standards of care both internally through compliance with our policies, procedures and practices as well as through the review/audit by outside independent reviewers.

## II. Specific unlawful Conditions

### A. Denial of Access to Counsel.

Individuals at NORCOR have phone access as soon as they are booked. The majority of attorney calls are free with the exception being those attorneys that are retained by the individual. All inmates have access to the Lexis Nexus legal systems which contains all pertinent case law, civil law, state and federal statutes and they are updated regularly. Those with a pending case or hearing are given first access to this system and it is available every day, all day. All offenders are given 3 letters, 9 pieces of paper and postage each wk without cost to them, additionally all legal/professional mail is mailed at no cost to the offender. Additionally NORCOR has recently installed tablets in each unit that in addition to entertainment, commissary and e-mail/visiting access they will have access to the Lexis Nexus system on these tablets.

### B. Denial of Access to the Courts

Same explanation as provided in section A

### C. Denial of necessary Health Care

Dental issues; anyone who complains of dental care is seen by our charge nurse, a request is sent to ICE who approves it and then they are either seen here in the community or taken back to Tacoma for treatment. Nursing/Medical coverage; we have 7-day a wk, 12 hr per day RN coverage. All Deputies receive training in the areas of CPR, First Aid, and medication management. For any issue that happens after the Nurse leaves we have an on-call Physicians Assistant who is available for consultation and the local hospital is 5 min's away. All offenders who are booked into NORCOR receive a comprehensive screening that includes basic Medical/Mental Health screening, Suicide and PREA screening and the Brief Jail Mental Health Screen. Anyone who presents with symptoms has an existing prescription or requests to see a Medical or Mental Health Professional, are referred and seen within 24 hrs of admission. NORCOR retains 2 full-time Mental Health Clinicians a Mental Health case manager and provides a plethora of evidenced-based treatment that is available to all. No one is ever denied services or their requests ignored. We also have a part-time PNP who prescribes for those with valid concerns.

D. Denial of Adequate Nutrition

NORCOR contracts with a food service company who provides a 4 week rotating menu that has been developed and certified by a licensed dietician. Each day nutritional calorie counts exceed 2650 calories. In addition to the daily food provided by NORCOR all offenders have access to commissary. All housing units have Microwaves and all offenders can request to work.

E. Denial of Religious Liberty

All offenders are allowed to pursue their religious affiliation without restraint, therefore prayer rugs bibles and rosary beads are allowed. Group services are non-denominational but offenders are free to engage representatives from their respective religions to provide services to them. We allow clergy visiting, face to face in the attorney booths for privacy.

F. Denial of Outside Exercise

Both exercise yards are open air and have outside light that meet the national standards for outside recreation. Each yard has a pull-up and Dip bar as well as a concrete step up block so they can exercise the major muscle groups of the lower body. They can play basketball, soccer, hacky-sack and handball. Each pod is given 1 hour per day and on a rotational basis, they also have access to wkly yoga classes.

G. Prohibited Family Visitation

In this section you did not mention the fact that each person here is allowed a free 60 min video visitation per wk. and the video quality is exceptional, not faulty

H. Poor Hygiene and Sanitation

All inmates receive basic hygiene items. Females are also afforded feminine hygiene products at booking and weekly thereafter. Additional hygiene products can be purchased on commissary. All units are provided with cleaning supplies daily. We passed our last "Sanitation Inspection Report" that was completed by NCPHD on 2016 and are schedule for an additional visit later this year.

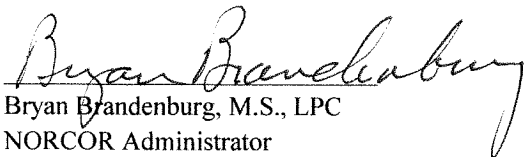
I. Inadequate clothing for cold temperatures. Clothing exchange is conducted twice a week and ICE detainees are given an additional set of clothing that other offenders do not receive. All offenders are given socks and the average temp is kept at 72 degrees.

III. Violations of ICE Standards

As stated previously NORCOR has passed the ICE detention Audit that was completed in 2011, 33 of 35 standards and we are scheduled for our next audit in November.

In conclusion I hope this adequately answers your concerns. I certainly don't believe that litigation is warranted as all of the alleged claims have not been substantiated and we have sufficient documentation to prove that they are invalid.

Sincerely,



Bryan Brandenburg, M.S., LPC  
NORCOR Administrator