

DECLARATION OF ASKIA ASMAR

I, Askia Asmar, make the following declaration based on my personal knowledge and declare under the penalty of perjury that the following is true and correct to the best of my knowledge and belief

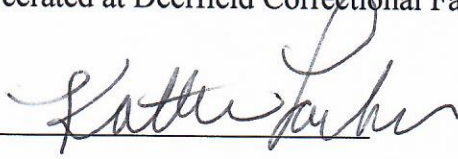
1. My name is Askia Asmar. I am 67 years old, and competent to give testimony. I am currently incarcerated at Deerfield Correctional Center. My Offender ID number is 105967.
2. I have been at Deerfield since March 2018. Prior to that I was in Henrico County. I was sentenced to 6 years; however, a judge took off 6 months of my sentence because I turned in a handcuff key that I recovered which had been copied by an inmate.
3. I reside in a dormitory style unit; with bunk beds, approximately 3 – 4 feet apart. It is not possible to stay 6 feet from each other. This is a geriatric unit; all of are over 50 and many have serious underlying medical conditions. My health is very poor as I have terminal cancer so I do my best to stay away from people.
4. My mandatory release date is August 2021; however I have recently been told I have a parole date of 12/16/20.
5. I suffer from liver and lung cancer; I have diabetes, HepC, and high blood pressure. I take several medications and Ensure three times daily.
6. I receive chemotherapy for my cancer; I have been told this is palliative. I receive chemo once every 28 days at MCV Hospital
7. On August 31, I went for chemo and the nurse asked me why I did not come in for my MRI/CT on August 28. I was not made aware of that appointment. It is imperative that I receive the MRI/CT prior to chemo so medical staff knows how to proceed and how much chemo to give me. The nurse rescheduled the MRI/CT and my next chemo. I do not know if prison staff will comply this time.
8. When I came back from the hospital, I should have been quarantined for 14 days but they only quarantined me for 4 days.
9. I was COVID tested on or about September 1 and again on or about September 8. I was not told the results. But on September 11, I was told that I was being moved to another building and I was moved. Others from my pod were moved on September 10, but I was not on that list, although I should have been. The unit manager's list and the nurse's list were different;

- I was moved on September 11 when the nurse asked why I had not been moved because I was COVID negative and should have been removed from the COVID positive individuals.
10. Two people from my building died in September and two in the building I was moved to on September 11 also died; prison staff is blaming their deaths on other medical conditions, but I am sure it is COVID.
 11. Germicide was available in my former building; however in the building I was moved into, I had to ask for germicide.
 12. I was tested again after being moved and told yesterday that I am COVID positive. So I have been moved again from a Yellow Zone building that I was sent to on September 11 to a Red Zone. I am now back in Red Zone with others who have tested COVID positive. They moved about seven others back to a Red Zone. There are about 90 people in this Red Zone pod.
 13. I have done approximately 15 medical request forms. Medical refuses to give me any information about my medical appointments with MCV. On June 11, I asked to see a doctor because of extreme pain in the area where cancer had been removed from my liver. I was told to speak to MCV. That is the typical response. I have learned to distrust the medical staff here. I am usually told to contact MCV which of course I cannot do.
 14. I sent an inmate request form 6/29/2020 to the warden regarding a COVID release; I received a response stating that I had been provided information in April about the COVID procedures.
 15. Dr. Harris asked me if anyone in my family could read and write and told me to get my family to do a petition and that medical doesn't decide who gets released.
 16. Since the weekend, I am experiencing sweats, diarrhea, and body aches. I am extremely tired. They have given me aspirin. They check my temperature twice daily.
 17. Mr. Joe Morrison sent a letter on June 1 to Ms. Williams the warden, on my behalf because of my terminal illness. Ms. Williams forwarded it to me which is the source of my information.
 18. I am incarcerated for a non-violent offense. I have a niece who is a nurse who is willing and able to take me in to live with her in Richmond. I have provided Ms. Larkin with her name, address and telephone number.

19. I am extremely frightened that I will miss my medical appointments for cancer treatment this month because I am COVID positive. The medical staff here has been neglectful of my cancer and is incompetent in handling COVID within the facility. They have moved us back and forth, mingling positive patients with negative which has exacerbated the conditions here. I can only pray. That's all I have.

I, Kathleen Larkin, reviewed this agreement with Askia Asmar, and received his verbal assent to all of its terms on September 16, 2020 at approximately 1:20pm during a telephone call while he was incarcerated at Deerfield Correctional Facility.

Signed: _____



Date: _____

