

I am writing in regards to my appointment on Sept 28th, 2018.

Yesterday, Sept 27th, I saw last night that I was on the call-out for a 6am appointment for "Optom". I assume this means I have an appointment concerning my eyesight, or glasses. On April 18th of 2018, I had a medical trip to the eye doctor, who then gave me a clean bill of health. Last October, I got a pair of new glasses. So I wondered why I was on the call-out when I did not request one, and my last trip to the eye doctor resulted in a "clean bill of health".

This morning, Sept 28th, I got up to go to the medical, since it was scheduled for 6am. The doors were unlocked late, so about a couple minutes after 6, I went to medical.

On the way to medical, Officer Ivy was working the compound, standing by the gate on Northside. When he saw me, he said, "Where you going", to which I answered that I was going to Medical. Ivy then said, "Go back", and I mentioned again that I had a 6am call-out for the optometrist. He told me again to go back. Refusing my call out, I told him, "ok, but if they call me, I'm not going", to which he responded "I don't care. That's your refusal". I then said to him as I was heading back to B2 unit, "No, YOU'RE refusing my medical call out", and walked off.

I am writing to make note of several things here. One, my call out could have easily been verified by Ivy if he had simply called it in. Or, he should have known that I had a call out if the 2 officers in B2 allowed me to leave the unit. Even if that wasn't the case, and if for some reason Medical was closed, Ivy could have simply told me something reasonable like "Medical's not open yet, they'll call you when they're ready". I could understand and comply with that if Ivy gave me a reason to go back. But to openly say "Go back" does not give me a valid reason of why I cannot go to a scheduled call-out.

In the messages there is a notice about Inmate Accountability, where the prison supposes that it is always the inmate's fault for not making their appointments. While I agree to the most part, it should be noted that many times the reason we don't make those appointments is because officers like Ivy are not following reasonable venues of communication. Ivy has been known for months to make such harsh and aggressive comments and decisions to inmates. A week or two ago, while I was in Medical for another appointment, one inmate came in late, saying that he tried to come to medical at 6am, but Ivy refused him from coming. When the inmate complained about it, Ivy put him in "the tank" (a holding cell) for over an hour, causing him to miss his appointment. I say this to you to support my statement that sometimes when we as inmates don't make our appointments, it's not always our fault. Often times officers, like Ivy, prevent us from making our appointments, and in effect, are refusing out call-outs.

I believe that when it comes to Inmate accountability, it's not just inmates. Health services has to understand that for the most part, the inmates are very concerned about our health. But there is a cooperation not just with inmates and health services, but with staff here as well. If staff do not do their part, and allow inmates to make their appointments, then in effect it is the officers who are preventing us- refusing us- from making our appointments. If we as inmates must take accountability, then so should staff.

I do not know if I will have my appointment rescheduled, to be sure I did not initiate it, since as I mentioned, my last visit to the optometrist in town said I had a clean bill of health, and I have only had my new glasses for just under a year. But I did what I was supposed to do; to try to make the appointment at the scheduled time. If, for whatever reason, medical was not open, then surely staff has a responsibility to let the inmates know that Medical wasn't open at that time. Ivy, if he knew that, refused to tell me, and I think within reason, I had a right to know why HE was refusing my call-out. If Ivy didn't know, shouldn't he have simply looked into the situation, rather than assuming I didn't have a visit, then answering me in a non-professional way?

If I had responded in kind, no doubt we might have gotten into an argument, and Ivy would have (as he often does) would have retaliated against me by putting me in the "tank". But his poor communication skills would have provoked me to answer in kind. At some point, staff and officers have to take accountability of their communication with inmates, to speak to us in reasonable tones, explaining why a certain action is not permitted. I could not have reasonably argued against Ivy if he told me that Medical wasn't open, and for me to wait until they called me. But his answer was sharp, unprofessional and without reason. He refused my visit simply because he wanted to. As such, I cannot take "inmate responsibility" for not going to Medical. My scheduled

appointment was at 6... not 7, or "sometime".

If there is a reschedule of my appointment, I will again make every attempt to go. As I write this, it is 7:49... I have not been called to Medical for my appointment at 6. If Medical assumes I refused, they are incorrect; Ivy refused my visit, not me.

Thank you for reading my notice. It is of importance that we all understand that when it comes to inmate health, it is a joint cooperation between inmates, health department and the staff that work here, so that we can make the best efforts to take care of ourselves while we are at this facility. Thank you.

One of over 100 essays I've written, some
in emails like this, most in essay form. Hope to
send more soon. I welcome all letters.

fm.