

Warden's Approval Order Ignored.

Here at the South Dakota State Penitentiary, Jameson Annex, there are a lot of issues with ethics and accountability. The chain-of-command keeps changing and nobody is held accountable for anything.

At the end of February of 2023 I sent a letter with an old commissary slip to ask ~~out~~ that \$300 from my frozen account be transferred to the Jameson Buddhist Group account to help pay for the religious holiday meal on April 15th 2023. I have led/facilitated the Jameson Buddhist Group since 2015 and continue to do so.

The warden APPROVED my request to transfer the funds into the Jameson Buddhist Group account. Per prison policy, the warden has to approve use of any funds in ~~the~~ prisoners frozen account before it can be used.

In March, on the same day I got the approval from the warden in writing, the warden quit his job after about only a year of being here. He took over from the previous warden who was fired in 2021 by governor Kristi ~~Noem~~ Noem amid sexual ~~harassment~~ harassment allegations among prison staff. Numerous ~~prison~~ prison officials were fired or suspended by ~~the~~ governor Noem.

I talked to numerous prison staff about the funds not being transferred. Later I got my commassary slip returned and written on it was "this is not allowed." I showed approval paperwork to unit manager and the programs director, whom made a copy of the wardens approval document. It is now over a month later and still no funds have been transferred.

This shows the on-going problems here in the South Dakota State Penitentiary. One of them is religious discrimination along with no clear accountability for any prison staff actions and the warden position keeps changing from person to person.

There needs to be accountability and positive changes need to occur here to make it more constitutional. It appears here the old saying is occurring with prison staff: "Everyone wants to be a general and nobody wants to be a soldier." Every prison staff wants to interpret and enforce their own opinions and policy, not the written ones. It should be interesting to see what occurs next, if a written approval from a warden is ignored with impunity; what is next?