

SWORN STATEMENT NO.25

FROM PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY JAIL

We do not have cell phone footage of abuses inside prisons and jails. I am reading the following sworn testimony from a person held in the Prince George's County Jail to lift this veil of secrecy and hold our justice system accountable. This testimony was taken in April 2020.

Last week, I felt really bad for two or three days. I had body aches, a runny nose, and what felt like fluid in my chest. I told one of the guards that I felt sick, and requested to go to the medical unit. Once in Medical, someone I think was a nurse took my temperature. It was 101 or 102. Despite this, I only remained in the medical unit for ten or 15 minutes.

I am not the only person in my unit to get sick. I've observed symptoms of what could be COVID-19 in pretty much the whole unit.

Staying six feet away is often not possible when people are using the phones, for example. I haven't filed any grievances, because the jail staff makes the process difficult. Some of the correctional officers give you a hard time about filing them, and it's difficult to get in touch with the Zone Commander, something you need to do to file a grievance.

I feel like we're being kept in the dark about how bad this pandemic is. We watch the news and hear stories from people on the outside, but the guards are not being honest about how many people within the jail are infected. In fact, to my knowledge they haven't told us anything about people being infected in the jail, though we know they are. I would guess at least six people from my unit alone, H-17, have gotten infected.

Obviously, everyone is scared of getting sick. There is no help in here. If you get sick, you might be done.

It feels like no one working at the jail actually cares about us and our health.