

SWORN STATEMENT NO.9-2 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.

I am currently incarcerated at the Prince George's County Jail. I contracted the COVID-19 Coronavirus while detained at the jail and have since tested positive for the virus.

The jail is simply not protecting us. They tell us to be clean, but it took four or five days before they gave me a hygiene kit in the medical unit. Before then, I had no soap, toothbrush, toothpaste, or deodorant to keep myself clean. I asked many times, but the COs would play with us and tell us we didn't need a hygiene kit.

I had been asking all week to speak to my attorney, but they wouldn't let me out of the isolation cell to use the phone. I couldn't communicate with anyone. When I would ask to call my attorney, the COs acted like it was a joke and would laugh at me.

I have not been allowed to use the shower in nearly two weeks. Instead, I have been forced to wash myself as best I can in a dirty, mildewed sink. I have to share the sink and bar of soap with the other men in here. We have been provided no liquid soap, no hand sanitizer, no disinfectant. Some of the men here still have not been provided a toothbrush or toothpaste.

This cell is messed up. There's lint balls and tissues and paper towels on the floor. There are spiders and centipedes. And our trash is piled up in bags that they won't take away since we've been over here. They just gave us a spray bottle yesterday, but they won't give us anything else for cleaning.

The COs also won't give us fresh water, juice, or ice. We are told if we are thirsty, we have to drink water from the dirty sink, even though we have no cleaning supplies to clean the sink and everyone has to use it to clean themselves. There's an orange water cooler in here with us, but it's empty because the COs refuse to fill it with ice and clean water.

SWORN STATEMENT NO.9-2 [cont.]

Some guys on the unit seem to have the virus, but they are scared to get tested, because they don't want to get stuck in the medical unit like I am. They'd rather just let their bodies fight it off. It feels like the COs look at us like we're going to die soon, so it doesn't matter how they treat us.

My bond was paid. I want to be released. But they won't release me until they decide I'm no longer contagious. If I survive this, I will have to live with this the rest of my life.