



ACLU

AMERICAN CIVIL LIBERTIES UNION
of ARIZONA

Stories from Arizona Prisons

CT Kinkade spent years locked up in ADC custody, two and a half of those in solitary confinement. While incarcerated, CT did not receive treatment for several serious medical complaints. His crooked fingers reflect the untreated broken bones and injured joints he suffered while incarcerated. The work he performed as part of his inmate labor program exposed him to blood borne diseases and early in his sentence, he contracted Hepatitis C. He complained to guards and submitted formal requests for medical treatment when he began to experience severe abdominal and chest pain caused by gallstones. His condition worsened as his repeated requests were ignored. His gallbladder erupted and he had to be rushed to surgery. CT described his experience in isolation in an interview with the ACLU-AZ.

I spent two and a half years in solitary. I was up there by myself. I never saw anyone. I only saw a nurse every three days and the guard who brought me my meals. They turned the air-conditioner on in the winter and the heater during the summer. The lights were on all the time, 24 hours a day. They took my clothes; they took everything. My recreation was 3 ft. by 3 ft. inside of another caged area. I never even saw outside.

Avi Naftel had an ileostomy, a small surgical opening that brings the end of the small intestine out onto the surface of the skin. Waste passes through the ileostomy and is collected in an external pouch that is must be changed regularly. During the 17 years Avi spent locked up in ADC, he was routinely denied appropriate ostomy supplies. In a letter to the ACLU of Arizona he described his experience trying to obtain medical care while incarcerated.

I was in ADC for 17 years between 1982 and 2010. During all times I had severe problems obtaining ostomy supplies that fit me properly. Sometimes, especially at the Buckeye facility, I was completely denied ostomy supplies for days at a time. I was, over the years denied, and given care for kidney problems; I was transported to the hospital and almost died.

They gave me bags that didn't fit. If the bag doesn't fit properly, I get what's called excoriation, leakage; I get sores basically. The bags don't last very long; they just wear off real quick and they start leaking. They gave me X number of bags per week. If I went through three of them in a day, I was kinda stuck. I needed a special no-fiber diet and foods, especially vegetables had to be cooked very thoroughly. Many foods I can't and couldn't eat at all. The doctors listed these as "likes and dislikes" rather than as severe inability to digest, causing me on numerous occasions to be hospitalized with severe and painful intestinal blockages requiring procedures I didn't need if I'd been fed properly.

Avi recently passed away from complications related to his chronic medical conditions, conditions for which he was routinely denied care while he was held in ADC custody.

Gina Panetta Box was only 25 years old when she died behind bars in Arizona's only women's prison, Perryville. She was serving a two year sentence for a non-violent offense. For two months before her death, she complained of dizziness, fever, headaches, shortness of breath, nausea and vomiting, but her requests for treatment were ignored. Her mother, Dianne Panetta, shared her daughter's story in an open letter.

When her requests for medical treatment were ignored, Gina filed grievances against the prison's head nurse. She wrote letters to the Warden and Faculty Health Administrator. She begged them to give her a blood test, but they refused. She took antibiotic after antibiotic and when those didn't work, the head nurse told Gina she was overreacting to the healing process.

On June 16th, when Gina collapsed, the nurse finally administered a blood test. She was sent to Maricopa County Hospital the following day. After a stroke, she lapsed into a coma. Gina died of Acute Myelocytic Leukemia on June 18th 2003. She never had a chance to say goodbye to her parents or her children.

Although the prison medical staff could not have prevented Gina's cancer, for two months, they ignored her obvious suffering and denied her repeated requests for medical treatment. Their gross neglect robbed Gina of any chance at remission or recovery.