

AFFIDAVIT OF SCOTT MOORE

STATE OF WEST VIRGINIA
COUNTY OF RALEIGH, To Wit:

I, Scott Moore, being of sound mind and over the age of eighteen (18), do solemnly swear that the following are true and correct statements based on my personal knowledge:

1. My name is Scott Moore. I am a former employee of the West Virginia Division of Corrections and Rehabilitation (“DCR”).
2. From July 1997 until August 31, 2021, I was a correctional officer (Corporal) at Southern Regional Jail (“SRJ”) in Beaver, West Virginia.
3. I am personally familiar with, and have knowledge of, DCR policy, SRJ policy, the living conditions at SRJ, and how inmates are treated at SRJ.
4. During my time at SRJ, overcrowding was a widespread and ongoing problem at the facility. It was a regular occurrence to have three (3) or four (4) inmates living in a two-person cell.
5. In overcrowded cells, inmates are forced to sleep on the floor, often without a mattress.
6. SRJ was so overcrowded, inmates were forced to live and sleep on the dayroom (the common area in the middle of a pod) floor.
7. Living and sleeping on the dayroom floor exposes inmates to both health and safety risks.
8. When inmates were forced to live/sleep on the dayroom floor, they had no access to individual sinks or toilets.
9. I am aware of inmates at SRJ being attacked and injured by other inmates because they are living in the dayroom and not protected by a locked cell.

10. Suicide cells at SRJ were also very overcrowded.
11. SRJ had only two (2) cells designated for inmates on suicide watch. I am aware of as many as eight (8) inmates being placed in a suicide cell together at one time and left there for days.
12. At SRJ, inmates are supposed to be provided a “flex cup” for drinking and a “spork” for eating. However, inmates were regularly not provided these items.
13. Inmates without a flex cup or spork must drink from old milk cartons or plastic bottles and eat with their hands.
14. At SRJ, inmates were commonly given inadequate portions of food.
15. At SRJ, inmates were regularly given spoiled milk.
16. Inmates at SRJ are also supposed to be provided with at least two (2) sets of clothing. However, inmates were regularly given only one set of clothing.
17. I recall inmates at SRJ begging to be given more clothing.
18. Inmates are also supposed to be given the option of having their clothes laundered by the jail. However, the majority of inmates were not able to utilize laundry service because they had only one set of clothes. As a result, these inmates had to wash their clothes in a sink.
19. Inmates that could utilize the jail’s laundry service commonly would not, because clothes were regularly stolen or would come back wet and musty.
20. During my time at SRJ, there were widespread and ongoing problems with the water/plumbing at the facility.
21. At any given time, numerous inmate cells (often over crowded) at SRJ had no running water.

22. If an inmate does not have running water in his/her cell, he/she can go up to six (6) hours (or longer) without access to drinking water during lockdown.
23. In cells that did have running water, many only had hot water.
24. In cells that did have running water, the water often ran constantly (*i.e.*, cannot be turned off).
25. During my time at SRJ, broken toilets (that do no flush) were also a widespread and ongoing problem at the facility.
26. At any given time, numerous inmate cells at SRJ (often overcrowded) had toilets that did not flush or were otherwise broken.
27. Water leaking from broken sinks and toilets was also a widespread and ongoing problem at SRJ.
28. At any given time, numerous inmate cells at SRJ had water (from a broken sink or toilet) leaking onto the floor.
29. Because virtually all of the cells were overcrowded, inmates at SRJ commonly slept in sink or toilet water on the floor of their cell.
30. At SRJ, cells that are adjacent to showers commonly had water seeping in through the ceiling, walls, and floor.
31. Many of the showers at SRJ either did not work, only had hot or cold water, or ran constantly.
32. During my time at SRJ, broken cell windows were a widespread and ongoing problem at the facility. At any given time, there were multiple inmate cells with broken windows, which made them unusable.

33. The failure to repair these windows (so the cells can be used) contributed to the overcrowding problem at SRJ.

34. During my time at SRJ, black mold was a widespread and ongoing problem at the facility.

35. Black mold was everywhere in the jail, including inmate cells and inmate showers.

36. During my time at SRJ, inmate cells in every section of the jail had broken or constantly flickering lights. Some parts of the cell had so many broken lights, it was difficult to see.

37. At SRJ, inmates are supposed to be offered one hour per day of recreation time (uncirculated air). However, recreation time was regularly withheld from inmates.

38. A common practice used by correctional officers to avoid providing inmates with recreation time was to offer rec time first thing in the morning after lockdown when most inmates were asleep.

39. During my time at SRJ, I saw rats in the jail.

40. I also saw areas of the jail that were infested with ants.

41. At SRJ, inmates who were not suicidal were commonly placed in overcrowded suicide cells as punishment.

42. Inmates at SRJ were also placed in segregation cells – with twenty-three (23) hour per day lockdowns – for no justification.

43. Inmates in segregation cells often went days without water or being let out for a shower.

44. One particular inmate – Benjamin Allen – was kept in a segregation cell at SRJ for fourteen (14) months by order of Superintendent Michal Francis.

45. Inmates at SRJ were also beaten by correctional officers with no justification.

46. Correctional officers would regularly take inmates into individual cells or inmates showers (where there are no cameras) to beat inmates.

47. Correctional officers also used the medical facilities at SRJ to beat inmates, because there are no cameras there either.

48. After these beatings, correctional officers would lie on use of force reports – by saying something like “the inmate made an aggressive move” – to justify the beatings.

49. Inmate requests for medical care or “sick calls” were regularly ignored at SRJ.

50. I recall one inmate at SRJ who repeatedly requested medical attention, was ignored, and later died of COVID.

51. Supervising correctional officers and jail administrators – including Superintendent Francis – are fully aware of the aforementioned problems at SRJ.

52. Every week Superintendent Francis and his team do a visual inspection of each pod at SRJ.

53. This affidavit is true and correct to the best of my knowledge.

Affiant further saith not.

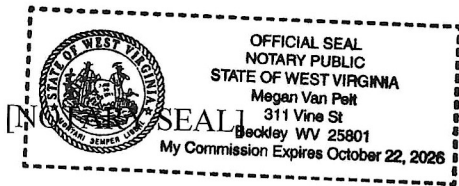

Scott Moore


Date

State of: WEST VIRGINIA
County: of RALEIGH

Taken, subscribed, and sworn before me by Scott Moore,
this 26th of August, 2022.

My commission expires: OCTOBER 22, 2026




Notary Public