

Stupidity and Corrections, Page 1 of 3

Therapy, one of the greatest opportunities the Corrections can provide inmates? I believed that the Sex Offender Treatment Program (SOTP) was such a powerful experience in helping me learn how to do life more functionally, that I manipulated myself into a position to get more time in it; and so, with over 17-months into an 18-month program, I forced my therapist to remove me by threatening to withhold the maintenance contract—the last assignment—if he didn't remove me for using another inmates pain reliever. This proved to be one of the most stupid choices I've made, securing my idiot status.

The therapeutic environment here at the Utah Department of Corrections (UDC) is one that bolsters its number of "volunteer" participants, by incorporating an extremely punitive set of living restrictions that those whom either fail to volunteer for, or get removed from, therapy, must endure. These living restrictions actually go beyond those outlined for punitive measures, as while on these reduced levels you are not allowed any of the following: phone calls, visits, any educational or programming classes, employment, any commissary except writing materials and hygiene supplies, radio or any electronics, and various other restrictions.

Individuals not volunteering for therapy are subject to the restrictions until their written

requests to be allowed back on a waiting list for the program is approved. SOTP has a six (6) month minimum removal period before one is eligible to reapply; and, any requests that fail to earn the applicant the privilege of being placed back on the waiting list, results in an additional 6-month removal period. All removals and subsequent denials for re-admittance are deemed refusals to volunteer, or participate.

Due to the growth I had experienced while in therapy, I was willing to set for 6-months at these restricted levels, just for the opportunity for additional therapy. With 20-years of incarceration fueling my institutionalism, and my prior track record, I figured the restrictions a small price for a chance at learning to do life more functional. Despite my request to be removed from therapy being frowned upon by the SOTP supervising therapist, my therapist, the parole board, and the Captain of my housing, I pushed the issue. With 17-months before I was scheduled to appear before the parole board, I seen removal as an opportunity to get 11-additional months of therapy after the 6-months of restrictions, so I manipulated the system to those ends. Have I mentioned that I'm an idiot?

I'm an idiot, practicing utter stupidity in thinking SOTP would invest in my personal success by serving what might be in my best interests individually. This became too clear, when after the prescribed 6-month punishment they refused to accept my request for readmittance. They are managers of inmates, not as individual persons, but as very objectified articles of commerce in the business of "Corrections" They serve their best interests, not the individuals.

Of all things to justify refusing me readmittance, they questioned my motivation for therapy. WHAT???. Weeks from transition, I put myself in this punitive setting just to get additional therapy, and they deny me because of my lack of motivation. Another correctional Rick in the teeth, out of spite, I've little doubt.

For over a year I've been stuck, not only denied treatment, but because of my failure to "volunteer" for SOTP, I am also not allowed to participate in any of the rehabilitative programs and opportunities - education, jobs, life skills classes, ect.. I've watched others get removed, get readmitted and removed again, while I wait.

What is "Corrections" really correcting, when they put their vindictiveness ahead of inmate growth and rehab? Where is the social responsibility in this? Not that any of us inmates have issues with respecting authority, they teach us to become better citizens, with each spirit killing blow.