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RE: LEGAL ASSISTANCE: (POST).
IN THE SHU. (PBSP).

PRISON OFFICIALS AT PELICAN BAY STATE PRISON HAVE PROCEDURES IN PLACE TO PREVENT PRISONERS FROM SEEKING LEGAL ASSISTANCE FROM ANOTHER PRISON INMATE THAT HAS SOME EXPERIENCE IN PREPARING LEGAL DOCUMENTS. AND GETTING A CASE. HABEAS CORPUS OR CIVIL RIGHTS SUIT THROUGH THE COURTS.

IT WASN'T ALWAYS LIKE THIS, AT FIRST WE COULD GET HELP FROM ANY ONE NO MATTER WHERE HE WAS HOUSED.

THEN IN 1994 THEY STOPPED IT AND NOW HAVE A POLICY THAT ONE CAN ONLY GET ASSISTANCE FROM SOMEONE IN HIS UNIT. AND THEY COULD ONLY GET HELP FOR TWO WEEKS.

THIS MADE IT AND CONTINUES TO MAKE IT IMPOSSIBLE TO GET HELP FROM A PARALEGAL, BECAUSE NOT AS MANY PRISONERS ARE THAT KNOWLEDGEABLE IN THE LAW. SO IF ONE IS NOT IN YOUR UNIT, YOUR ON YOUR OWN, OR YOU CAN GET HELP FROM SOMEONE THAT KNOWS A LITTLE MORE THAN YOU, AND YOUR SURE TO FAIL.

RECENTLY I WAS ASKED BY ANOTHER PRISONER TO HELP HIM PETITION THE COURT ABOUT HIS BEING CHARGED \$20,000 DOLLARS RESTITUTION. WHEN HE IS NOT SUPPOSE TO PAY RESTITUTION UNDER LAW. ANY PRISONER SERVING LIFE WITHOUT POSSIBILITY OF PAROLE IS EXEMPT FROM RESTITUTION.

I'D LIKE TO HELP HIM BUT I CAN'T BECAUSE HE'S IN ANOTHER POD AND I CAN'T SPEAK WITH HIM. THE TWO WEEK ASSISTANCE PROGRAM WON'T DO. HE HAS ACTION, I'VE READ CASE LAW THAT SUPPORTS HIS ARGUMENT, BUT IT DOES VERY LITTLE GOOD.