

STUPID RULES...

Thursday
March 27, 2014

Just when you think you've seen it all, that they couldn't possibly up with a dumber idea, they go and raise the bar to levels previously unof. In this instance, the prison system has mysteriously decided to enforce a rule hidden away in an underground rule-book that's not readily available to members of the inmate population. The rule in question states that only inmates incarcerated in prisons with washers and dryers accessible to the inmate population may purchase and possess laundry detergent. Despite the hidden rule being known to the prison administration, they continued to sell us laundry detergent to wash our personal clothing, and then, without warning, they informed us that the laundry detergent they just sold to us is contraband, which means that it must be disposed of or the inmate will face disciplinary sanctions.

The stupidity of this rule doesn't have anything to do with selling us something in the morning, only to turn around that same afternoon and declare it contraband. This happens on a regular basis, so often in fact, that we have become accustomed to it. No, the stupidity comes from telling us that we can purchase and possess personal clothing, but that we aren't allowed to launder it. We can't wash it in our cells because laundry detergent is now against the rules for those prisons that don't have washers and dryers on the prison premises, and we're not allowed to submit it with our State-issued clothing to be laundered, although no one in their right mind would do that anyway, considering that things are stolen from the laundry so frequently.

I can't imagine why such a rule was created in the first place, let alone why it was never enforced before now. In fact, not only was the rule being enforced, they were actively engaged in selling us the laundry detergent to wash our clothes. As near as I can figure, they have a bunch of morons in a room engaged in a game of "Let's See Who Can Come Up With The Stupidest Rule" while in another room, they have a bunch of monkeys throwing darts at a board of rules to see which ones are going to be enforced today. The end result is sheer stupidity, and although I've never served in Vietnam (or anywhere else for that matter), I now understand what Vietnam Vets mean when they refer to the upper echelon running a war from the safety of an office, thousands of miles away, as a "REMF."

I'm not really sure who's in charge: the morons or the monkeys, but the end result's the same. Another stupid rule has been passed, one which defies all logic and common sense. They show us a rule stating that we must be clean, neat and groomed at all times, and then, in the same breath, they inform us that we're not only no longer allowed to wash our personal clothing, but we're also not allowed to turn it in with our State-issued clothing to get washed. And somehow, this all makes sense to them.

As always, I look forward to anything you might have to say, either on this topic or anything else that happens to be on your mind. Responses can be posted here, e-mailed to me at shawnlperrot@hotmail.com or snail mailed at the address listed below. All responses will be answered.

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