

On 11/7/23 I was forced to be strip searched illegally and my room got searched illegally. Both were supposedly done to find a cellphone/electronic device. This is the 3rd time since 3/3/23 that the excuse for the illegal strip and room search was that a cellphone/electronic device was being looked for. There was NO doctors orders for any of the 3 strip searches, in direct violation of my rights, State law and OMH policy. The truth to why I am being targeted/harassed/abused is due to me speaking out about this place (STARC) and what is/isn't happening here. I have not had a cellphone since 2021, when I was assaulted by staff and it was taken from me. I have never had any other unapproved electronic device before or after 2021.

The law that is holding me here says that I am a civilian in a psychiatric hospital/treatment center but if that were true, why am I being treated worse than a inmate/prisoner doing a criminal sentence? Inmates/prisoners don't even go through the above except in extreme situations. In the above situation a inmate/prisoner would have be placed in a Boss chair (metal detector you sit on) or wanded with a handheld metal detector. He would not have been subjected to a illegal strip search, How is it a inmate/prisoner has more rights than a civilian? The above is a Fourth Amendment and possibly a Eighth Amendment violation. On top of all I wrote above, there is more. Due to me atleast 4 others were illegally strip searched. I say "because of me" because they were all told that they were strip searched due to me by the staff that searched them. I truly can't comprehend how others that have nothing to do with my actions were able to be illegally strip searched. Those individuals were informed that everything happened due to me having a active Facebook account. I do have one that is managed by a 3rd party (NOT ME) and it is used to talk about here (STARC).

Then on 11/8/23 I sent a complaint to Risk Management about the illegal strip search and asking for: 1.) the Doctors order, 2.) what the "Probable cause" was and 3.) who authorized the strip and room search not only on 11/7/23 but also the two previous one.

Then on 11/10/23 I received a reply from Risk Management dated 11/8/23 that said:

"Risk Management has received and reviewed your correspondence dated November 7, 2023 regarding concerns with strip searches. Please be advised

that strip searches do not require a physician's order as you allege, As you reside in a secure treatment facility, you may be subjected to probable cause searches."

Then on 11/13/23 I sent a appeal to the Executive Director that said:

"1.) Complaint was not fully answered as I asked for what the "Probable Cause" was and who authorized the strip and room searches, 2.) A Doctors Order IS required for a strip search per NYS law and DMH Policy."

Under the section that said: "Please provide reason for your appeal".

Then on 11/15/23 I was given a 28 day "Loss of Privilege" (Loss of TV, radio, Job, commissary (food), food buy, catalog buy, etc.,) as a result of the 11/7/23 illegal strip and room search. Under the section on the "Loss of Privilege" form that says "Brief Summary of Behavioral Event" it says in part: "On 11/7/23, a search was conducted on Mr. Peana's dorm room. The search revealed several items of contraband that included a cellphone charger, miscellaneous wires, and chargers that had been altered. When cellphone charger was taken Mr. Peana stated, "Oh you finally found it, that is the one from 2021."

I had atleast 10 room searches since 2021 and the "cellphone" charger has never been taken. I didn't even realise I still had the charger (USB). I thought it was taken when the phone was taken in 2021. I did jokingly say "Ya, sure, that is probly from 2021" to the staff member who said, I had a cellphone charger while holding a clump of wires (patch cables, headphone extentions, old shaver chargers, etc.,). Due to the new "Loss of privilege" I now have no job and won't have one for atleast 6 months, due to me not having a job, I won't have any money to pay for phone calls, stamps, paper, envelopes, etc., due to that the facility has cut me off from my family, friends and supports.

I strongly believe that I am being targeted due to my statements about this place (STARc) to many outside entities.

If you want to/can help, please send me money (money orders) to pay for phone calls, postage, etc., to my address above, I will NOT stop talking just because I am being targeted. I will keep you updated on what happens next.

Below is a list of Phone #'s that can be called to ask questions, file complaints, etc.,... Concerning me/Facility,

Please Note: Any # with a * next to it can only be called if I sign a release. If you want a release signed send a email request to: Sjpeana85@yahoo.com (all emails will be forwarded to me) or write me at my address above.

NYS OMH Hotline - 1-800-597-8481

The Justice Center - 1-800-624-4143

- * Danielle Tope, Executive Director, STARC-Dakview - 315-765-3650
- * Aaron Shupp, Chief Psychologist, STARC-Dakview - 315-765-3288
- * Bud Ballinger, Director of Treatment Services, STARC-Dakview - 315-765-3642
- * Justin Lopata, Chief of Operational Services, STARC-Dakview - 315-765-3525
- * Kenneth Paparella, Executive Consultant, STARC-Dakview - 315-765-3521
- * Alyssa Luley, Director of Risk Management, STARC-Dakview - 315-765-3687
- * Kris Harvey, Complaint Specialist, STARC-Dakview - 315-765-3681
- * Larry Cracchiolo, Treatment Team Leader, STARC-Dakview - 315-765-3523
- * Courtney Stern, Rehab. Counselor 2, STARC-Dakview - 315-765-3263
- * Elaine Vuong, Psychologist, STARC-Dakview - 315-765-3262

Any questions for me, please send to me at my address above or to: Sjpeana85@yahoo.com.