



Laurie Little Dog <laurielittledog@gmail.com>

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## Welfare check on Gabriel LittleDog

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**Salmonsens, Jim** <jisalmonsens@mt.gov>  
To: Laurie Little Dog <laurielittledog@gmail.com>  
Cc: "Guyer, Lynn" <Lynn.Guyer@mt.gov>

Tue, Feb 12, 2019 at 1:01 PM

Laurie,

I must apologize! You are correct. I spoke with Mental Health this morning and after they checked, Gabriel had missed his previous appointments. This is due to no fault of his, more of a facility issue, lack of time one day and lack of doctor services the other. I am confident that after our conversation today, Gabriel will be seen the first part of March. Again, I am sorry for the incorrect information I provided to you yesterday.

**Jim Salmonsens**

**Associate Warden of Operations**

**Montana State Prison**

**jisalmonsens@mt.gov**

**(406) 846-1320 ext 2300**

***"Choose a job you love and you will never work a day in your life" Confucius***

**From:** Laurie Little Dog <laurielittledog@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Monday, February 11, 2019 3:11 PM  
**To:** Salmonsens, Jim <jisalmonsens@mt.gov>  
**Cc:** Guyer, Lynn <Lynn.Guyer@mt.gov>  
**Subject:** Re: Welfare check on Gabriel LittleDog

Hi again Mr. Salmonsens.

I don't quite understand. The Mental Health Department is claiming that Gabriel 'skipped' his mental health appointments?

This is not adding up. Perhaps they skipped *him*. I am attaching to this email, copies of kites he has sent up asking and begging for mental health assistance. You see, Gabriel is not being informed of the mental health appointments and is trying to understand when and how these appointments happen. When the doctor says to try a medication for four weeks, and Prescription is adversely affects him, and the four weeks come and go with no word from the doctor... he asks: Who is the one who sets up the follow up

appointments? Is it the doctor? Or does he have to send in a kite? Who does scheduling? That is what he has repeatedly asked.

He has indeed sent up kites inquiring when his upcoming appointments are scheduled. Here are just a few of those kites attached to this email. I don't know how many total kites and all were sent. These kites are even signed off by mental health with ambiguous responses, that do not answer the inquiries written in the original kites.

Please understand Mr. Salmonsens is not my motivation to argue. It is just concerning that the mental health folks are claiming that he skipping out when he is actively kiting out for help.

All in all, I think that this underscores Gabriel's need for treatment, just like his sentencing documents recommend. Did you happen to find where he sits on the ITU waiting list?

The particular medication that Dr. Nelson placed Gabriel on was causing him adverse physical side effects and his prescription just needed to be adjusted to a different medication such as Zoloft. He was absolutely in search of changing medications and he was waiting to speak with the doctor about. The doctor told him he would be able to see him again in four weeks, but those four weeks came and gone and Gabriel was anxious to see the doctor again but he was not given that opportunity. We spoke about it in person and on the phone that he was wanting to change the medication he was on, cause it was not allowing him to sleep, or sleep too much and it took away his appetite. I even did some physician research on alternative SSRI that he might be prescribed by Dr. Nelson.

What I am saying is, Gabriel is not being informed of these appointments in advance, yet he is being marked as 'skipped'.

It is frustrating, because this situation is not an isolated incident. After seeing the doctor, he was he was not informed that the antidepressant medication prescribed to him was allegedly waiting for him in the medical dispensary, for nearly two months, while he struggled on his own trying to cope with his mental health. Hum.

While I have never known Gabriel reference the word 'reefer', he does understand cannabis to be an effective medication for many people who struggle with depression, chronic pain, post traumatic stress and want to avoid the consequences of opiate addiction. Hence the approval for medical use in the state of Montana and elsewhere.

Well, I do ask that you hear Gabriel's request for mental health intervention and reconsider your position.

There must be a mutually beneficial solution.

Thank you Mr. Salmonsens. I hope seeing these kites will help bring some understanding.



Laurie Little Dog <laurielittledog@gmail.com>

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## Welfare check on Gabriel LittleDog

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Laurie Little Dog <laurielittledog@gmail.com>

Mon, Feb 11, 2019 at 3:11 PM

To: "Salmonsens, Jim" <jisalmonsens@mt.gov>

Cc: "Guyer, Lynn" <Lynn.Guyer@mt.gov>

Hi again Mr. Salmonsens.

I don't quite understand. The Mental Health Department is claiming that Gabriel 'skipped' his mental health appointments?

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Laurie LittleDog



MSP inmate Kites for medical...

[Quoted text hidden]



# OFFENDER/STAFF REQUEST (OSR) FORM

From:

To: Russel D.

ADA Coordinator

(Name and title of staff person)

DATE: 10<sup>th</sup> Aug. 2018

To:

NAME: Little Dog, Gabriel ID#: 3023546 FACILITY: LHH-I UNIT: A  
CELL/ROOM: # 146

SUBJECT: (Briefly state your question and or concern and the solution you are requesting. Your failure to be specific may result in no action being taken. If necessary you may be interviewed in order to successfully respond to this request)

Being excessively written up and confined due to my mental disability doesn't offer rehabilitation, only Stockholm Syndrome.

The conditions of my mental disability are depression and anxiety.

The actions/interactions imposed by the MDIU staff exacerbates my conditions.

My symptoms could be managed with access to therapists and therapy as often as needed, and the appropriate medications.

I have been discriminated against and abused in the same fashion as the inmates involved in the UCLA vs MSP settlement, also known as Langford v. Bullock.

Do I have to file an 42 U.S.C § 1983 Civil Complaint against this facility also? I am just trying to get through with the programs so I can be paroled. I was only suppose to be here for a little while until a bed at M.A.S.C. was available. Due to my write ups, it was overridden and now I'm stuck here. Please help me! I am a first time offender! I didn't know the policies and torment.

STAFF RESPONSE: (for staff use only)

MR. LITTLE DOG,

YOUR WRITE UPS ARE A RESULT OF YOUR BEHAVIOR, NOT YOUR MENTAL HEALTH. YOUR LACK OF PERSONAL ACCOUNTABILITY FOR YOUR OWN ACTIONS IS NOT HELPING YOU CORRECT YOUR BEHAVIOR. YOU HAVE BEEN EVALUATED BY MENTAL HEALTH SERVICES. I ENCOURAGE YOU TO USE THE COPING SKILLS THAT HAVE WORKED FOR YOU IN THE PAST TO BETTER CONTROL YOUR BEHAVIOR AND HELP YOURSELF SHOW THAT YOU WOULD BE A GOOD CANDIDATE FOR PAROLE. ONCE YOU REACH GENERAL POPULATION, YOU CAN ENROLL IN A THERAPY PROGRAM TO LEARN NEW COPING SKILLS.

☐ Addressed Verbally

☐ Unanswered - violation of policy

RUSSEL D. / ADA COORDINATOR

(Staff Member Signature)

(Job Title)

8/15/18

(Date)

12/7/18

3/8 SMD

# Montana State Prison Mental Health Request (MHR) Form

To: Janice Ray, MSP psychologist or Connie Winick <sup>DOC</sup> clinical Svcs <sup>Nov.</sup> Nov 11<sup>th</sup> 2018  
<sup>Administrators</sup>

Name: Little Dog, Gabriel AO# 3023540 Unit: HSU-1 UAI0

**Problem/Concern:** (Please describe your mental health symptoms in as much detail as you can. This will allow Mental Health staff to better understand your mental health needs.)

I need relief from my depression. It is chronic and severe. So many times I have sent in kites for help. Last time, they said they would get me medication and still NOTHING has been done. NOTHING. No monitoring, no medication, no help. No relief. Inmates on high side do not have rehab access and I need intervention and a psychological assessment done by Dr. Daniel Foster, clinical psychologist at MT State Hospital, as was recommended in Court Order. MSP med techs have not provided adequate evaluation. Sent me to Warm Springs if MSP cannot provide me medically necessary care. I am irritable and in need of anti-anxiety/anti-depressant assistance. Angry due to no programs available. Sleeping hours not enough. Driven to point of desperation. Connie Winick told my wife in a letter that I was getting care with a treatment plan but I AM NOT getting care or medication.

**DO NOT WRITE IN THE SPACE BELOW**

Name of Staff Member Receiving Request: G. Foster

Date Received: 11/13/18

- |   |   |   |   |
|---|---|---|---|
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Mental Health Director/JR | <input type="checkbox"/> Psychiatrist       | <input type="checkbox"/> Psychologist       | <input type="checkbox"/> Administrative   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Nurse                                | <input type="checkbox"/> Activity Therapist | <input type="checkbox"/> Mental Health Tech | <input type="checkbox"/> MHTU             |
| <input type="checkbox"/> A-Unit Counselor                     | <input type="checkbox"/> B-Unit Counselor   | <input type="checkbox"/> C-Unit Counselor   | <input type="checkbox"/> D-Unit Counselor |
| <input type="checkbox"/> High Side Counselor                  | <input type="checkbox"/> MDIU               | <input type="checkbox"/> WRC                | <input type="checkbox"/> Other            |

**Staff Response:** (For staff use only.)

Mr. Little Dog,  
You have an upcoming appointment  
with Dr. Nielsen. Please review your medication needs  
@ this time.

Thank you,

(Staff Member Signature)

(Job Title)

(Date)

White - Mental Health File

Canary - Response to Inmate

Pink - Inmate Receipt

03/01/2016



# Montana State Prison Mental Health Request (MHR) Form

To: Jamie Ray, MSP Psychologist

Date: Nov. 27<sup>th</sup> 2018

To: Name: Little Dog, Gabriel

AO# 3023540

Unit: H54-1 U410

**Problem/Concern:** (Please describe your mental health symptoms in as much detail as you can. This will allow Mental Health staff to better understand your mental health needs.)

Miss Jamie Ray, you replied to my Kite that I have a  
up coming appointment with Dr. Nielsen. When is this  
appointment going to take place and what time?

What date did you schedule this appointment to  
take place?

I do not have on treatment plan and need medication  
for anxiety and depression.

## DO NOT WRITE IN THE SPACE BELOW

Name of Staff Member Receiving Request: G. Frazer

Date Received: 11/30/18

☐ Mental Health Director

☐ Psychiatrist

☐ Psychologist

☐ Administrative

☐ Nurse

☐ Activity Therapist

☐ Mental Health Tech

☐ MHTU

☐ A-Unit Counselor

☐ B-Unit Counselor

☐ C-Unit Counselor

☐ D-Unit Counselor

☐ High Side Counselor

☐ MDIU

☐ WRC

☐ Other

**Staff Response:** (For staff use only.)

Seen by the provider 10/9/18, will see the provider  
again in December.

[Signature]  
(Staff Member Signature)

MHT  
(Job Title)

11/30/18  
(Date)

White - Mental Health File

Canary - Response to Inmate

Pink - Inmate Receipt

12/7/18  
151

8/8

03/01/2016



Laurie Little Dog <laurielittledog@gmail.com>

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## Welfare check on Gabriel LittleDog

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**Salmonsens, Jim** <jisalmonsens@mt.gov>  
To: Laurie Little Dog <laurielittledog@gmail.com>  
Cc: "Guyer, Lynn" <Lynn.Guyer@mt.gov>

Mon, Feb 11, 2019 at 12:33 PM

Laurie,

I checked with Mental Health and Gabriel has skipped his last two appointments with Mental Health and has refused to take his Mental Health Medication. In his own words, "the reefer made me feel better"! Gabriel needs to stop self-medicating and listen to the doctors. He has another appointment scheduled in March, if he refuses it, he will be dropped from the doctor's schedule. So please tell him that he needs to cooperate with Medical on his appointments.

As for his placement in Locked Housing, he has been placed in Locked Housing because of a dirty UA, which he openly told me he smoked. He is living where his behavior dictates. I will not intervene in his living location based upon a Disciplinary Sanction. Gabriel just needs to follow the rules and everything will be fine. I do know that this is not what you want to hear and I apologize for that.

Thank you

[Quoted text hidden]





Laurie Little Dog <laurielittledog@gmail.com>

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## Welfare check on Gabriel LittleDog

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**Laurie Little Dog** <laurielittledog@gmail.com>

Mon, Feb 11, 2019 at 11:02 AM

To: "Salmonsens, Jim" <jisalmonsens@mt.gov>

Cc: "Guyer, Lynn" <lynn.guyer@mt.gov>

Bcc: SK Rossi <rossis@aclumontana.org>, "ratea@Aclumontana.org" <ratea@aclumontana.org>

Thank you for finally getting back to me. As you could imagine, I have been worried sick as each hour passes with no response from you and no letters from Gabriel. I ask that you please use your power to relocate him to the least restrictive environment possible meaning cell-restriction, not solitary confinement. Gabriel is not a threat to the general population, but this extended confinement to locked housing is dangerous to his well being. The extreme isolation that Gabriel is experiencing is absolutely adversely affecting his mental & physical health. Please do not wait until Wednesday to come up with a solution. I am asking for a swift action please.

Your intervention in relocating Gabriel to cell-restriction would be a reasonable, appropriate and requested solution, as it would be the least restrictive environment available.

Please give him access to a psychologist and coping with this situation. And please give him my letters and allow his letters to leave Montana State prison so I can read them.

Please, I do ask that you have some mercy in the situation Mr. Salmonsens.

With respect,  
Laurie LittleDog

[Quoted text hidden]



Laurie Little Dog <laurielittledog@gmail.com>

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## Welfare check on Gabriel LittleDog

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Salmonsens, Jim <jisalmonsens@mt.gov>  
To: Laurie Little Dog <laurielittledog@gmail.com>

Mon, Feb 11, 2019 at 10:12 AM

Laurie,

I am so sorry for the delay in responding to you. I had to leave for an family emergency Friday before noon.

But, the good news is that before I left, I did see and visit with Gabriel. He is doing ok. He voiced the same Mental Health concerns that you did. I am looking for a solution for him. We also spoke about the write-ups he has received. He understands that he was wrong, but blames his mental health. We spoke for about 10 minutes. I will be back up to see him again tomorrow or Wednesday.

**Jim Salmonsens**

**Associate Warden of Operations**

**Montana State Prison**

**jisalmonsens@mt.gov**

**(406) 846-1320 ext 2300**

***"Choose a job you love and you will never work a day in your life" Confucius***

**From:** Laurie Little Dog <laurielittledog@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Friday, February 08, 2019 2:54 PM  
**To:** Salmonsens, Jim <jisalmonsens@mt.gov>  
**Subject:** Welfare check on Gabriel LittleDog

Hi Mr. Salmonsens.

[Quoted text hidden]



Laurie Little Dog <laurielittledog@gmail.com>

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**RE: Laurie LittleDog-Visitation MSP canceled on child's birthday**

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**Barton, Amy** <ABarton@mt.gov>

Thu, Mar 7, 2019 at 11:18 AM

To: Laurie Little Dog <laurielittledog@gmail.com>

Ms. Little Dog,

The Department of Corrections does not have a formal grievance process for non-offenders. The Department maintains a tiered grievance process for offenders, which provides them the ability to grieve to multiple levels if necessary. The Department takes input from the public and responds accordingly.

[Quoted text hidden]





Laurie Little Dog <laurielittledog@gmail.com>

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**RE: Laurie LittleDog-Visitation MSP canceled on child's birthday**

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**Laurie Little Dog** <laurielittledog@gmail.com>  
To: "Barton, Amy" <ABarton@mt.gov>

Tue, Mar 5, 2019 at 12:46 PM

Ms. Barton.

Rehabilitation and maintaining family ties is critical to reducing recidivism rates. Yet, the DOC regularly denies inmates access to court ordered rehabilitative programming. The family relationship building that happens during weekend visitation provide inmates with a kind of "surrogate therapy" that inmates are not able to access otherwise. Without this, they have nothing because Montana State Prison is not providing it.

I ask that you and your colleagues synthesize the wider impact behind the action of cancelling visitation. It is more than just a mere privilege. In practice, the actions that Montana State Prison takes are very different then the policies that are written and shared with the public.

Please tell me the exact policy and procedure for filing a formal written grievance against the Department of Corrections. Are these grievances public record? Is there an official grievance form available?

Can you please clarify why is it that rehabilitation and reducing recidivism rates is not being touted a top-priority for Montana State Prison as are the actions taken that hinder and adversely affect the inmates and Montanans in general?

Please let me know and attach to your reply any official Grievance Form that the DOC uses. Do yhave an ombudsman or a uniform complaint procedure?

Thank you,  
[Quoted text hidden]



Laurie Little Dog <laurielittledog@gmail.com>

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**RE: Laurie LittleDog-Visitation MSP canceled on child's birthday**

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**Barton, Amy** <ABarton@mt.gov>  
To: Laurie Little Dog <laurielittledog@gmail.com>

Tue, Mar 5, 2019 at 10:31 AM

Ms. Little Dog,

My meaning of "unforeseen" was "not predicted" – therefore unable to predict and plan ahead.

You will find the visitation policy at this link:

<http://cor.mt.gov/Portals/104/Resources/Policy/MSPprocedures/3-3-8InmateVisiting.pdf>

A couple points to address is that visiting is a privilege and not a right for both inmates and members of the general public. Per policy, all visiting may be cancelled or terminated at any time due to security concerns or operational necessity.

This situation presented as a security concern and therefore was within policy to cancel – at any time and without advance notice to inmates.

Regards,

Amy Barton  
Interim Director of Communications  
Department of Corrections

**From:** Laurie Little Dog <laurielittledog@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, March 5, 2019 10:19 AM  
**To:** Barton, Amy <ABarton@mt.gov>  
**Subject:** Re: Laurie LittleDog-Visitation MSP canceled on child's birthday

Hi Amy.

Can you please clarify what you mean when you State that the computer problems were "unforeseen"? In the past two months I have called MSP several times. On 4 occasions, I have experienced hours and in one case a day long delay due to "the computer system being down". Are you saying they actually "fixed" the computer system? I am hopeful that is the case.

I would like to discuss with the process and procedure is when somebody calls a cancellation on visitation. Does that have to get approved through Mr. Guyer?

Why then did a CO inform inmates that visitation was cancelled 'due to a lack of visitors... only two or three cars'?

I am VERY frustrated as it was our child's birthday and we had emailed Guyer two weeks in advance, rented a car and drove nearly 3 hours each way for this birthday visit.

Why was Godfrey not physically at the facility when he made that decision?

Awaiting your response.

Laurie LittleDog

On Tue, Mar 5, 2019 at 10:07 AM Barton, Amy <ABarton@mt.gov> wrote:

Ms. Little Dog,

Montana State Prison visitation was cancelled on Sunday March 3, 2019 due to unforeseen computer network problems that were occurring at the State level and prevented our staff from accessing necessary information for visitation. Without such access, it was impossible for staff to determine who was approved to visit, which presented a security risk for the facility. We understand this presented an inconvenience to family and friends, however, security and safety is a top priority for Montana State Prison.

Regards,

Amy Barton

Interim Director of Communications

Department of Corrections



July 7, 2019

Montana State Prison  
Mr. Lynn Guyer, Warden  
700 Conley Lake Road  
Deer Lodge, Montana 59722

Formal Grievance  
RE: Gabriel LittleDog, AO#3023540

Mr. Lynn Guyer,

I am writing to file a formal grievance, which cites four ongoing issues for requested intervention. Mr. Gabriel LittleDog, AO#3023540 is presently classified as a Level 3 in the Locked Housing Unit. Mr. Little Dog was taken to Locked Housing several months ago, as a result of him being physically assaulted by at least one other inmate (conspired by others) in the Highside housing unit. As Montana State Prison conducted their investigation of the assault, Gabriel was placed in Protective Custody status. Returning to Highside ensures that Gabriel LittleDog will be physically attacked (again) by an inmate who is already serving a sentence for deliberate homicide or by that offender's many accomplices in Highside Unit 1 and Highside Unit 2. As a means of survival, Mr. Gabriel Little Dog has chosen to remain in Protective Custody. It is a decision made as a necessity to preserve his life. Being that Mr. LittleDog was the victim of the assault, and was not relocated to Locked Housing as a punitive measure, Gabriel's classification to the restrictive Level 3 must be reconsidered, as it is not the "least restrictive means" available. An adjustment to Gabriel LittleDog's classification level while in LHU is being requested in this grievance. Specifically, the request for Gabriel LittleDog to be classified as an Administrative Housing Inmate is the desired solution.

Mr. Gabriel LittleDog has a history of mental illness, a history of substance abuse, and a history of suicidal behavior. Contrary to ACA standards, the lived reality of inmates confined to Locked Housing at Montana State Prison is that they are normally locked down ***more than*** 23 hours per day. This extreme isolation exacerbates mental health conditions (ie: depression, mania, psychosis etc) for otherwise healthy human beings and especially affects those who have a history of these conditions. While Locked Housing in itself has limitations, Gabriel's restrictions are magnified by the Level 3 status because Level 3 is barred from accessing the full LHU commissary list (ie: dried meat, ramen, candy etc). It also reduces his electronic access to either television OR mp3 player, not both. Having the access to expanded nutritional options and entertainment will help Gabriel cope with the isolation. Right now, this drastic reduction in freedom (going from Highside to LHU) feels like he is being punished, when he was the one assaulted.

Mr. Guyer, Gabriel's reaction to incarceration has not been smooth and frankly, Gabriel knowing that he must endure the next 2 years and 10 months in isolation or be targeted for physical violence or homicide, is ***not part of his sentence***.