

# Solitary Watch

## Criminal Justice Issues and Prisoners' Rights

<https://solitarywatch.org/2015/07/28/voices-from-solitary-segregation-medical/>

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close

Search

close

close

by [Voices from Solitary](#) | July 28, 2015

*The following account is by Casha Russell, who has spent the past eight months in the segregation unit at Illinois Logan Correctional Facility, a womens prisons three hours south of Chicago. Russell was sentenced to one year in segregation for allegedly burning her wife and co-defendant with hot water. (Both Russell and her wife insist that no assault occurred, and that her wife accidentally burned herself while cooking noodles.) During her year in segregation, Russell cannot use the telephone to call her family, go to recreation, or buy more than thirty dollars worth of supplies from commissary each month. She also has had an additional year added to her sentence.*

*Russell is one of about 2,300 people kept in solitary confinement in Illinois prisons. In June 2015, the Uptown Peoples Law Center and the law firm Winston & Strawn [filed a class-action lawsuit](#) challenging the states widespread use of solitary confinement on behalf of formerly and currently incarcerated people.*

*Illinois prisons have also been blasted for inadequate, if not life-threatening health care. In May 2015, a 405-page expert report, compiled by a team of medical experts, found significant lapses in care in 60 percent of the deaths they reviewed from January 2013 to May 2014. The report also found [sweeping non-fatal problems in medical care](#) throughout the state prison system. Medical care is provided by Wexford Health Source Inc., a for-profit company that holds a ten-year, \$1.36 billion contract with the Illinois Department of Corrections.*

*Officials at Logan Correctional Center did not return repeated calls for comment.*

*Russell turned thirty this past May while in segregation. She can receive letters at: Casha Russell #R79216, Logan Correctional Center, PO Box 1000, Lincoln, IL 62656 Victoria Law*

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The reason I want to address segregation medical is because I was diagnosed with a brain tumor in June of last year. When I was out of segregation, I was seeing the doctor inside and outside of the institution on a regular basis. But since I been in segregation, Ive had one doctor visit with the institution doctor in nine months, which was really a routine check-up. Nothing about my tumor was discussed til I took the initiative to bring it up. The doctor lied to me in my face, saying Im going to see an outside specialist soon.

When the nurses come by daily to pass out the meds, I explain to them how severe my headaches are. And yet still nothing has been done about my issue. The type of tumor I was diagnosed with can cause you to go blind. I enjoy writing urban novels. Book writing is my life, besides my children. And my eyes are starting to go bad. I reported that to the nurses as well. The doctor here been telling me Im going to surgery soon for the past 6 months. Well, my only question now is how soon is soon? Will soon be after I go blind?

I was told this my last doctors appointment, which was six months ago. Every time a nurse comes around, because they all are aware of my issues, I say, Do you know when Im leaving? They respond with, Soon, Ms. Russell. Now Im well aware that the institution cant tell me the exact day Im leaving for security reasons, but it should be a rule against continuing to lie.

I spoke with the nurse about a month ago that works closely with the doctor. And she informed me that the doctor from Springfield Clinic that was doing my surgery called down here to check up on me. Now you know the institution is not doing their job if the doctor from the outside world has to call up here and wonders why I havent been brought down for surgery.

I asked the nurses when they do their rounds, Why havent I seen the doctor yet? They say, We call for you. They said they were busy down here. Please explain to me how anything they could possibly be doing is more important than my health. When, if the officers aint harassing us, they sitting at the desk gossiping. Now thats facts.

The other day, I went to the dentist for a check-up. I need two fillings. He told me I cant receive them til I get out of segregation. I couldnt understand why. I been on the list since 2013. Its 2015. Now, mind you, its over 2000 women here. So if they skip my name because Im in segregation, which they will, by the time my name is called again, I wont need fillings. Ill need these two teeth pulled.

Segregation is like a prison inside a prison. Its as if youre getting double punishment, which I thought was against the law. Some would call what they do to us here in segregation cruel and unusual punishment. And I agree. I dont even believe the captured terrorist gets treated like we do in Logan Segregation. This institution needs to be investigated. Im reaching out to the world for help because theres none here. Please reach back.

Much love,

Casha

The Voices from Solitary series publishes dispatches from people surviving the lived experience of solitary confinement.

Accurate information and authentic storytelling can serve as powerful antidotes to ignorance and injustice. We have helped generate public awareness, mainstream media attention, and informed policymaking on what was once an invisible domestic human rights crisis.

Only with your support can we continue this groundbreaking work, shining light into the darkest corners of the U.S. criminal punishment system.

by [Voices from Solitary](#)

September 30, 2022

by [Voices from Solitary](#)

September 19, 2022

by [Voices from Solitary](#)

September 6, 2022

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Have somebody call the director of medical in Springfield and talk to the doctor. When I was in Dwight medical, my mom called a few times and it did help. Just because you are in medical seg should not change what kind of doctors you see. Good luck.

I understand. I do . Ive been writing about the treatment in ad seg, especially medical treatment at <http://mynameisjamie.net>. He has epilepsy and has more seizures than he tells me about because he knows it worries me. I dont understand. Everyone KNOWS what the medical is like in prisons, and people die because of it. Why is it nothing is done even though countless lawsuits are files? So I write and write and get the word out.

Trying to share this but the post comes up database error

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