

My name is Rebecca McAfee. I was incarcerated at Baltimore County Detention Center in 2019 for non-criminal traffic violations. During my time there I saw first hand how the current grievance procedure is not working. I wasn't aware of the protocol to file a grievance until halfway through my incarceration where a fellow inmate informed me of the 200 forms I could request from the CO when I had a grievance to file. A few grievances I had while at BCDC are as follows:

- I wasn't released after my bail was posted, instead I was held until my court date on June 10, 2019. I spoke with Sergeants, correctional officers, social workers, and psychiatrists within the DOC regarding this issue, which was just brushed under the rug and no help.
- Correctional officers would withhold food from me, in which I lost 30 pounds and I wasn't working out.
- I witnessed a fellow inmate attempt suicide and not receive any medical attention for 24 hours.
- When I came back to BCDC after my court date I found drugs planted in my cell and in my laundry bag that I didn't put there—if I had been released that day I would have been charged with felony drug charges. I told a sergeant about this and this was also brushed under the rug.
- My inmate uniform was taken from me and I was left naked in a cell for 48 hours. The CO that placed me on this type of watch claimed that I was suicidal. I was not suicidal.
- A CO had kept me on lock for the majority of her shift for no reason, which happened more times than I can count. I finally got the nerve to ask her for a 200 form. Instead of receiving a 200 form I was placed on lock for 8 days.
- I was jumped by 4 female correctional officers, which included a Sergeant, the day I was supposed to be released on 8/13/19. I was then kept on lock for another 19 days. On 8/14/19, while I was still housed on lock, I was charged as a fugitive for PA by the Baltimore County Fugitive task force. I wasn't a fugitive. I was finally released on 9/12/19 to the street, a month after I was to have been released on 8/13/19.

I didn't know who to contact regarding the injustices that not only I faced, but those of fellow inmates. I didn't feel safe to follow the grievance procedure in requesting a 200 form. I didn't want to get locked in again, and I am still waiting for the first 200 form I requested back in 2019. The oppressed cannot address their grievances to the oppressor, and shouldn't be required to do so.

The people that are facing these injustices while incarcerated are our fellow neighbors, our friends, our mothers, our fathers, our sons, our daughters, our aunts, and our uncles.

As the elected legislators for Maryland, you have the power to end the current broken grievance process by passing this bill and allowing an outside agency to step in and oversee that justice is served where necessary, and that DOC staff are held accountable for their continued inhumane treatment of the citizens of Maryland.