

December 18, 2005

Warden Kenneth Jones  
Donaldson Prison  
100 Warrior Lane, Bessemer, AL 35023

Dear Warden Jones:

I'm writing to tell you how my mother was treated at your prison yesterday during visiting hours. She was there with my sister-in-law to visit my brother, Patrick Swiney AIS#154406 G79.

I watch after my mother every day. She is 84 years old and disabled. She can hardly walk even with her walker. It's real painful for her and she has to rest a lot if she walks for just 50 feet or so. She has arthritis real bad. The doctor has her on a blood thinner for her heart, which makes her very cold natured so she has to bundle up even in summer. My sister-in-law and I are the only ones who can take her to see my brother, because she cannot drive any more.

Yesterday my mother was treated with disrespect, rudeness and was even lied on by your staff supposedly because of what she was wearing. She wore the same pants she's worn many other times, either her red ones or her black ones and has never had any trouble getting in to see Patrick. And yesterday was no different. She waited inside while my sister-in-law stood in line outside for their turn to get in. Then they were both searched by the security guard and told they were fine and could go to the visiting yard.

That walk from the front office to the visiting yard is very hard for my mother to do with her walker but she doesn't want to be pushed around in a wheel chair, and I can't blame her. I have trouble walking too so I understand how she feels about that.

After my mother and sister-in-law got all settled in the visiting yard, and just as Patrick was coming out to see them, one of the women guards in there came and told my mother she had to go back to the front office because Lt. Mc Swain wanted to check her pants. She's already been checked so this didn't make any sense. Lt. Mc Swain sent the message that she thought my mother was wearing a jogging suit. This is ridiculous! My mother has no use for a jogging suit. She was wearing the same pants she always wears which are made out of sweatshirt material. The difference is that she wore a Christmas shirt with them that was red to go with her red pants. The shirt and pants aren't even the same shade of red. My sister-in-law asked what the definition is of a jogging suit and the guard told her that anything containing fleece can't be worn.

My mother's pants are not fleece, I assure you. Maybe if she wore her black pants with the red Christmas shirt, no one would have had a problem with what she was wearing. But even so, there was no reason to force her to walk back to the front office like that because it hurt her real bad! And there was no reason for Lt. Mc Swain to be ugly to my mother. There was also no reason for another male guard to go back and tell my sister-in-law and Patrick that my mother was down there making trouble, yelling and cursing.

In all my 66 years, I have never heard my mother use a curse word. So the guard was lying and there's no reason for that. Also, she is hard of hearing so she normally talks loud. This is not yelling. In my opinion, Lt. Mc Swain was a perfect hemorrhoid (pain in the "a") to my mother who didn't do anything wrong.

Let me tell you that with her age and my brother's serious medical condition this might have been the last time my mother would see her son! Lt. Mc Swain was being mean-hearted to my mother and there's no call for that ever. I hope you will do something about this. My brother is very ill. He doesn't need that kind of stress. Neither does my mother. Lt. Mc Swain's actions could have killed my mother and she probably doesn't even care.

Hope to hear from you soon about this.

Sincerely,

Robbie Carter  
P.O. Box 156  
Alabaster, AL 35007  
Phone: 205-296-3020

CC: Commissioner Donal Campbell, 101 So. Union Street,  
Montgomery, AL 36130-1501