

Jerel Matthews - 10/05/2023

“What I would want med students to know about Stateville”

Stateville is one of 26 prisons in Illinois whose residents receive medical treatment from Wexford Health Sources, a private health care provider, who's corporate office is in Boston. The Illinois Department of Corrections has compensated Wexford approximately 1.3 billion for 10 years of healthcare treatment for its residents.

Since Wexford's arrival in the I.D.O.C their “deliberate indifference” to the healthcare needs of its patients is ubiquitous. My experiences are continued delays or not treating my serious health care needs. In 2021 I suffered a broken bone in my left thumb that healthcare personnel refused to treat which caused the bone to heal on its own and now my hand is deformed. I'm currently in civil litigation with Wexford regarding this matter.

The egregious treatment by Wexford is more than anecdotal. Empirical evidence reveals the widespread mistreatment of the prisoners Wexford is tasked with providing healthcare for. A class action lawsuit against Wexford was settled in 2019 which ended in a “Lippert consent decree” where Wexford/IDOC will assure that healthcare services will improve and submit to federal oversight.

Moreover, notwithstanding Stateville's depopulation, the healthcare here remains substandard. It is evident that Wexford is inundated with capital, so for them it's easier to continue denying adequate healthcare to prisoners which sometimes leads to these prisoners' deaths. Wexford would rather pay settlements than provide standard healthcare.

In closing, I've attached this short list of settlements which have taken place from 2018-2020. The medical issues are myriad herein but associated with great pains. Any further information needed/required I would be happy to provide.