

The Truth Of It All

by: Antonio L. Doyle, Nevada

Cell Size: 8 ft x 14 ft (minus the foot and a half table)

Time in cell: 21 - 23 hours

What and how many belongings: 13" flat screen that is actually 7" x 10" for \$ 325, alarm clock, fan, hot pot. Beard Trimmer/ Norelco, MP3 Player (\$ 2.00 per Song), 10 books/mags, 10 T-Shirts, boxers, socks, 2 blankets, 2 sweatshirts, 2 sweatpants, 2 pr. shoes, 1 hat, 1 beanie, a mirror 6" x 7", calendar 9" x 9" or smaller, 1 jacket, 2 sets of sheets etc.

Meals served and when: The menu looks better than the food at this prison. Ohter prisons actually wok the food and give out proper portions. Breakfast: 04:30 a.m. Lunch is a sack that comes with breakfast, and dinner 04:30 p.m. Usually dinner is chicken, hotdogs or hamburgers. Lots of bread used as fillers for lack of food.

Lockdown when and how often: Lockdown are more regular now that the prison is opening up the general population units more. Lots of fights. So I'd say at least every week now.

Family and friends phone, mail, visits etc.: We do get contact visits. Speaking for myself, my last non-legal visit was 2007. No longer have contact with family other than my daughter who resides on the east-coast.

How to get clean clothes, underwear, hygiene: Send it to laundry. White clothing is only once a week though and blue's 3x a week which is strange, being T-shirts, boxers and socks are all white. Hygiene you can get only soap (hotel size bars), cheap toothpaste from the prison for free. Any other hygiene you have to buy from canteen.

Disciplinary sanctions: Can range from phone restrictions, yard restrictions, hole time.

Living conditions and emotions: Our living conditions are not as bad as most other death row units in this country. We get to come out for tier and yard at certain times in groups of 12-15. The group interaction is a good thing but still is only a temporary break from the fact you are on death row. Many times I have set and wanted to give up only to find myself waking up to a new day. It is family and friends who make the days difficult or easier to deal with.

I have been to three other prisons for court/medical and the food is the worst here. Small portions and sometimes undercooked. So you must buy food that is highly priced and may be part of the prison system's plan.

Then you see others go to visits or get mail and that drags you down even more and with very few programs available to us there is not much to keep your mind focused on other things that are not redundant. Ask yourself this: Can there be a tomorrow if everyday is exactly the same?

Medical care is different from prison to prison and can drag you down mentally as you may have to go to another prison for court and need to see a doctor and have to wait months because your situation wasn't deemed serious enough to be seen anytime soon.

We are forced to pay "electricity tax" in this state which bumps the price of certain electronics: t.v., fan, hot pot, but also 11 cent tax on every phone call, and yet, not allowed to vote.

How do you put someone on death row and leave them there 30 plus years! You'd think they would commute the sentence if that individual filed for it. And why are they sentencing guys who are over 60 and 70 to death and we have to watch them die via the aging process.

I do not agree with the death penalty, however, if they insist upon having it why is it not applied fairly? No. I do not argue race at this point. Those who can afford attorneys (well over \$ 50,000 for death penalty cases) do not get the death penalty and in Nevada there has only been ONE woman on death row and she passed away.

I am NOT encouraging the usage of this sentence, but gender bias is clearly in use for this punishment in this state. And there are NO death penalty organizations in this state, so we have to go to other states for legal help and are placed on long waiting lists. Letters of unfairness and egoism in the trial process to the NAACP go unanswered. So in Nevada death row has no voice. I had an attorney who would not raise issues I wanted and the courts refused my requests to remove him as counsel. I had no one to turn to for help in the state and no family to make calls on my behalf.

I went to court and had to be housed at another facility where rec yard is in dog cages (15 x 15 and 15 ft high cage), no roof to protect from sun at all. Tour groups are brought to the sally port to look at us like we are at a zoo. All of this pulls you further down. Am I suicidal? No. Have I thought of taking my own life? Yes.

Mentally and emotionally it does get hard, but you have to get up every day and deal with it, while at the same time you hope a judge finally rules in your favor. Our justice system in the U.S.A. is not as efficient and quick moving as in the U.K., so we can be years in one court only to get a bad decision.