

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
DISTRICT OF MAINE

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GEOFFREY V. V. WOOD,]
]
 Plaintiff,]
]
 vs.]
]
 HANCOCK COUNTY,]
 WILLIAM CLARK, SHERIFF, and]
 LINDA HANNAN, JAIL ADMINISTRATOR,]
]
 Defendants.]

Case no. CV-02-

COMPLAINT

1. Geoffrey V. V. Wood is an individual residing in Bar Harbor, Hancock County, Maine.
2. Hancock County is a political subdivision of the State of Maine
3. William Clark is the Sheriff of Hancock County, Maine, at all times relevant to this Complaint acting under color of State and County law.
4. Linda Hannan is the Jail Administrator for the Hancock County Jail, at all times relevant to this Complaint acting under color of State and County law.
5. A jury trial is demanded.
6. On May 27, 2001, the Plaintiff was arrested by the Mount Desert police, "patted down," and taken to the Hancock County Jail for booking.
7. During the booking process, the Plaintiff asked for the assistance of an attorney to obtain advice regarding the paperwork he was being required to sign. The Plaintiff at no time became belligerent.
8. In response to Plaintiff's requests for the right to consult with an attorney, jail personnel stated that "This can be done the hard way" while slowly donning rubber gloves and glaring at him in an intimidating manner.

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9. The Plaintiff was escorted to the shower, stripped of his clothing, and required to shower while jail personnel surveilled him.
10. After the shower, the Plaintiff was subjected to a search of his person, including a visual body cavity search in which he was required to bend over and spread his buttocks apart so that the jail personnel could inspect his body.
11. The Plaintiff was released from the jail at 4:30 am on May 28, 2001.
12. The Plaintiff was extremely intimidated and humiliated by this process.
13. On July 10, 2001, in a separate incident, the Plaintiff was again arrested and brought to the Hancock County Jail after being "patted down."
14. After booking, the Plaintiff was subjected to a clothing search, and a shower during which he was surveilled, but not subjected to a visual body cavity search.
15. On July 11, 2001, the Plaintiff was visited by his attorney at the jail at approximately 8:30 am, for a 5 - 10 minute meeting. The Plaintiff was not subjected to a strip search, clothing search, or visual body cavity search either before or after this meeting.
16. Approximately thirty minutes later, Plaintiff's attorney returned to the jail to meet with the Plaintiff for another fifteen minutes. Plaintiff's attorney was searched by way of a detection wand upon entry to the jail, and brought with her only a legal pad and a pen.
17. After the meeting was concluded and the Plaintiff and his attorney were leaving the visiting area, a member of the jail personnel informed the Plaintiff that he was to be strip searched prior to returning to the general jail population. The Plaintiff was then strip searched and subjected to a visual body cavity search.
18. Defendant Linda Hannan and Defendant William Clark have both stated that there is a "confidential" official jail policy to strip search anyone placed in the jail after any contact visit, and that this policy is exempt from the Freedom of Access laws.
19. Both strip searches were conducted in violation of the "Minimum Standards" of the State of Maine Department of Corrections standards for small jails and the State of Maine Attorney General's standards.

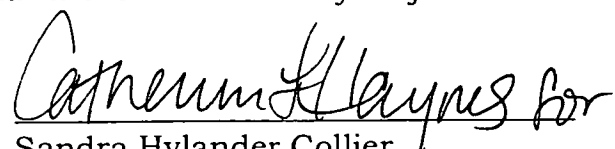
20. In further violation of the above described standards, there is no record of the strip search or booking that occurred on May 27, 2001, or of the visual body cavity strip search that occurred on July 11, 2001.

Count I: Violation of 42 U.S.C. § 1983

21. Plaintiff repeats and realleges paragraphs 1 - 20 as if set forth fully herein.
22. The Plaintiff was strip searched and subjected to a visual body cavity search without a reasonable suspicion that he was in possession of contraband, or had violated any rule or law, in violation of his Fourth and Fourteenth Amendment rights to be free from unreasonable searches of his person.
23. Defendants' conduct deprived Plaintiff of his constitutional rights as stated in paragraph 22, above.
24. Plaintiff's right to be free from such unreasonable searches was a clearly defined right under the United States Constitution, and the laws of the United States and the State of Maine, including case law. Defendants are not entitled to qualified immunity.
25. The May 27, 2001 strip search and visual body cavity search was further performed as direct retaliation for Plaintiff's request to consult with an attorney in regard to his arrest, in violation of his Fifth and Sixth Amendment right to counsel.
26. The Plaintiff suffered intimidation, degradation, humiliation, and a loss of dignity as a result of the above described strip searches.

WHEREFORE, the Plaintiff demands judgment in an amount to be proven at trial, compensatory damages, punitive damages, for his attorney's fees, costs, interest, and for such other and further relief as may be just in the premises.

Date: 4-26-02


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