

AFFIDAVIT

I, the undersigned, being first put under affirmation, attest that:

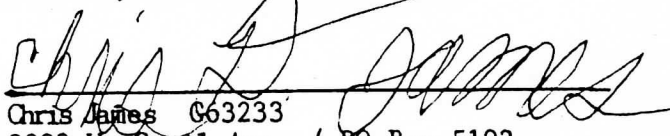
My name is Chris James and I'm a prisoner in California Department of Corrections (CDC), number G63233. I'm wheelchair bound from an accident and disability from my youth. The following incident happened at Kern Valley State Prison (KVSP), where I was and am housed in C-facility, building 8, cell #C8-120L.

On Sunday, December 5, 2010, roughly about 5:00 p.m. right after dinner was served, my cell door was opened and I wheeled out the door, choking on my dinner food. The prisoner next door, Lazor (CDC #C73842), in cell 119, saw me through his cell window and asked if I was choking and needed help. I nodded yes, as I was beginning to pass out, unable to breathe in air at all. My throat was clogged and totally blocked. Lazor immediately begin furiously kicking and pounding on his door, yelling out to the guards to open his door so he could get out and save me from choking to death. Lazor was screaming over and over, "Open my door, he's choking to death! ...Man down, MAN DOWN! OPEN MY DOOR!!..." The guard in the control booth who operates the cell doors by remote control (Mr. Bowen) finally responded to Lazor's screaming, saw what was happening and opened Lazor's door as I was about to lose consciousness. Lazor immediately dashed out his door and grabbed ahold of me just as I fell forward out of my wheelchair to the floor. Lazor immediately grabbed ahold of me around my chest to force out the food that was blocking my throat. Some chunks of food then sputtered out of my mouth, and I was able to inhale again. Two other prisoners from the next cell (118) were then let out to help, but by then I was able to get air, and be put back into my wheelchair.

At this point, after the incident was resolved, though I was still shaken up, some psych techs/nurses who have some medical training came into the cellblock section, having been alerted by the control booth operator activating his emergency alarm based on Lazor's pounding and screaming for help. Lazor went back into his cell at this point, once the medical technicians came.

If not for Lazor's alertness and quick action, I well may have choked to death, as no one else had observed what was happening and appeared would not have gotten to me until it was too late.

I attest, under affirmation and subject to penalties for perjury, that the foregoing statements are all true of my own personal knowledge. This affidavit made this 16th day of January, 2011, at KVSP in the County of Kern, California.


Chris James G63233
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