

STATE OF CALIFORNIA
CITIZEN'S COMPLAINT AGAINST EMPLOYEES OF CDCR
CDCR 2142 (Rev. 09/15)

DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTIONS AND REHABILITATION
Page 1 of 2

I wish to register a complaint against the following named employee(s) of the California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation:

Employee(s) Name	Description (Job title, ID number, vehicle and license number, home address, etc. if known)	Employee's Work Location (if known)
Frank Perez	Correctional Counselor 2	CMC

Oct 28 - Nov 8, 2024 Ongoing CMC-East
Date(s) of Incident Time of Incident Location of Incident

Details of Complaint (Include nature of complaint, names and address of witnesses and other involved parties, names of any law enforcement or social services agencies, doctors, or attorneys contacted, a chronology of the events, etc. It is important to include as many factual details as possible so that your complaint may be thoroughly investigated. Attach additional sheets if necessary.)

See attached memo and enclosures

In order that the Department may contact you relative to your complaint, please provide the following:

Name: Angela Cotellesa

Cell Home Phone: (213) 804-5151

Address: 6200 Rolling Rd., #523142 Springfield, VA 22152

Work Phone: ()

If your complaint is against a Department peace officer, you must read and sign the following statement:

YOU HAVE THE RIGHT TO MAKE A COMPLAINT AGAINST A PEACE OFFICER FOR ANY IMPROPER PEACE OFFICER CONDUCT. CALIFORNIA LAW REQUIRES THIS AGENCY TO HAVE A PROCEDURE TO INVESTIGATE CITIZENS' COMPLAINTS. YOU HAVE A RIGHT TO A WRITTEN DESCRIPTION OF THIS PROCEDURE. THIS AGENCY MAY FIND AFTER INVESTIGATION THAT THERE IS NOT ENOUGH EVIDENCE TO WARRANT ACTION ON YOUR COMPLAINT; EVEN IF THAT IS THE CASE, YOU HAVE THE RIGHT TO MAKE THE COMPLAINT AND HAVE IT INVESTIGATED IF YOU BELIEVE AN OFFICER BEHAVED IMPROPERLY. CITIZENS' COMPLAINTS AND ANY REPORTS OR FINDINGS RELATING TO COMPLAINTS MUST BE RETAINED BY THIS AGENCY FOR AT LEAST FIVE YEARS.

I have read and understand the above statement:

Angela Cotellesa
Signature

11/16/24
Date

Your complaint may be submitted to any supervisor or manager of the Department, or may be addressed to the Department's Office of Internal Affairs at any of the Regional Offices indicated on the reverse side of this form.

For Departmental Use Only:

Official Receiving Complaint

Office/Institution

Date Received

see reverse side for instructions

INSTRUCTIONS

The Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation is committed to ensuring all departmental employees are courteous, ethical and professional in carrying out the Department's mission. The Department shall investigate citizens' complaints against employees to preserve the integrity and morale of the Department, foster public trust and confidence, and ensure accountability to the public. The investigations shall be thorough and impartial, with the intent of correcting or disciplining employees who engage in misconduct, identifying inadequate policies and training, and protecting employees who perform their duties properly from unwarranted criticism. The following outlines the process used by the Department for investigating complaints by citizens and departmental employees.

1. Section 3391 (b) of Title 15 of the California Code of Regulations specifies that an allegation by a non-inmate of misconduct by a departmental peace officer is a citizens' complaint pursuant to Penal Code Section 832.5. A citizens' complaint against any departmental employee may be initiated by completing and submitting this form to: (a) any departmental hiring authority, including warden/administrator of a correctional institution, parole office, or other departmental office; (b) any departmental supervisor or manager; or, (c) any Regional Office or Headquarters Office of the Department's Office of Internal Affairs. If your complaint regards sexual harassment or discrimination based on race, gender, national origin, religion, sexual orientation, or disability, it may be referred to the Department's Equal Employment Opportunity Office for investigation and appropriate disposition.
2. Provide as much detail as possible on this form to ensure a thorough and timely investigation. Attach additional sheets if necessary to describe your complaint. In addition, attach any documentation you believe supports your complaint. The date, time and location of the incident, where the subject employee(s) works, and names, addresses, and telephone numbers of other involved parties and witnesses are critical to a thorough investigation of your complaint.
3. Your complaint will be investigated by a departmental hiring authority or the Office of Internal Affairs nature and seriousness of the allegation(s). depending nature and seriousness of the allegation(s). on the
4. As the complainant, you will be contacted during the investigation regarding the information provided on this form and supporting documents, as well as any other knowledge you may have relative to the allegation(s). You may be interviewed regarding your complaint and, if criminal conduct is alleged, you may also be contacted by other federal, state, and/or local law enforcement agencies.
5. The investigator will verify the information you provide by collecting evidence and interviewing witnesses, other involved parties, and the subject employee(s). A final investigative report will be prepared at the conclusion of the investigation and you will be notified of the results of the investigation.
6. The departmental hiring authority will be provided with the investigative report. If any allegations of misconduct are sustained, a determination will be made regarding appropriate corrective and/or disciplinary action against the employee. The Director of Corrections and Rehabilitation has final authority on disciplinary matters.
7. In some cases, the results of the investigation may warrant changes to a departmental policy/procedure to alleviate any future concerns.
8. If formal adverse action is taken against the employee(s), the employee(s) has a right to appeal this action to the State Personnel Board. The Board may uphold the Department's action, or overturn the action based on its own independent evaluation of the allegation(s) and finding(s).
9. Complaints and investigative reports will be retained by the Department for a period of five years.

NOTE: A complaint by an inmate or parolee under the Department's jurisdiction shall be made on the Form CDCR 602 Inmate/Parolee Appeal under the appeal process outlined in the California Code of Regulations, Title 15, Sections 3084 through 3084.7.

Office of Internal Affairs: Northern Region
P.O. Box 3009
Sacramento, CA 95812
(916) 255-1301

Central Region
5100 Young Street
Building B, Suite 160A
Bakersfield, CA 93311
(661) 664-2054

Southern Region
9035 Haven Avenue
Suite 105
Rancho Cucamonga, CA 91730
(909) 483-1594

FROM: Dr. Angela Cotellessa
6200 Rolling Road, #523142
Springfield, VA 22152
Acotellessa@gwmail.gwu.edu or Angela@polymathsplace.com
(213) 804-5151

TO: California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation
Office of Internal Affairs
Northern Region: PO Box 3009, Sacramento, CA 95812
Central Region: 5100 Young Street, Building B, Suite 160A, Bakersfield, CA 93311

DATE: November 16, 2024

Subject: Citizen Complaint Regarding Misconduct of Correctional Officer Frank Perez

Dear Office of Internal Affairs,

I am writing to formally file a citizen complaint regarding the egregious misconduct of Correctional Officer Frank Perez at the California Men's Colony (CMC). His actions, as detailed below, not only violate CDCR's policies but also undermine the integrity of the correctional system.

Misconduct by Frank Perez

Officer Perez has exhibited a clear pattern of unethical and unprofessional behavior, including:

1. Fabricating Government Reports:

Officer Perez fabricated an official report claiming that inmate Shawn Rodriguez had been playing recordings of staff on the yard. This report was entirely false and was created with the intent to harm Mr. Rodriguez's reputation and standing within the institution.

2. Soliciting False Statements from Prisoners:

Officer Perez has actively encouraged prisoners to provide false statements against Mr. Rodriguez, further demonstrating a willful disregard for truth and due process.

3. Collusion with Known Gang Members:

Officer Perez has partnered with members of the Blood gang at CMC, including Corey Holmes, to intimidate, harm, and silence Mr. Rodriguez. Such alliances with gang members not only compromise the safety of inmates but also create a culture of fear and retaliation within the facility.

Violations of Policy and Professional Standards

Lying in an official government report is a fireable offense under CDCR's staff disciplinary matrix. Officer Perez's repeated misconduct, including fabricating reports and collaborating with gang members, clearly demonstrates his inability to uphold the ethical and professional standards required of his position. His actions have caused harm to Mr. Rodriguez and eroded trust in the correctional system.

Request for Action

I respectfully request a thorough investigation into Officer Frank Perez's conduct, including:

- His fabricated report regarding Shawn Rodriguez.
- His solicitation of false statements from inmates.
- His inappropriate alliances with gang members, specifically Corey Holmes and the Blood gang.

Once your investigation is complete, please ensure that CDCR records indicate that Shawn was in Ad Seg due to safety concerns, and that the documented reasons for being in Ad Seg for disciplinary reasons have been fabricated by staff. This is part of a repeated pattern to falsify documents in order to get rid of Shawn, and to harm him on the way out, as retaliation for us reporting misconduct.

These actions represent a severe abuse of power and an unacceptable breach of CDCR's policies and responsibilities. I urge your office to hold Officer Perez accountable for his misconduct and take appropriate disciplinary action, including termination. The Disciplinary Matrix clearly states that falsifying material facts in reports or official records is considered a serious offense, with the minimum penalty being dismissal. This policy underscores the CDCR's commitment to upholding ethical standards and ensuring that all official documentation reflects the truth. Please ensure the truth is documented rather than the fabrications currently recorded in CDCR's records.

Additionally, I request that measures be implemented to ensure the safety of Shawn Rodriguez and all inmates at CMC who may be targeted by similar patterns of misconduct and retaliation.

Thank you for your attention to this matter. I am available to provide further information or clarification if needed and I encourage you to reach out to Shawn Rodriguez directly to obtain his

statement. I trust that your office will take this complaint seriously and act swiftly to address the issues outlined.

By the way, it is worth noting that Shawn got the recording device from Corey Holmes, who then turned around and lied, saying Shawn was playing recordings of staff on the yard, and that this made him and other inmates "uneasy." This never happened, and Corey was the source of the recording device to begin with.

Please help do a proper, actual investigation into the repeated staff misconduct that continues to occur at the California Mens Colony. Their local investigators continue to cover up and fabricate information in official government reports. These falsified documents have been used to justify removing Shawn's tablet privileges and as rationale to send him to a more dangerous prison. Why is this being done? Precisely because we have reported staff misconduct. This is all clear retaliation for daring to report the truth and hold CMC staff accountable to abide by CDCR policies.

Please help rectify this injustice.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Angela Cotellessa". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name being more prominent.

Angela Cotellessa

Enclosures:

- Timeline of Events
- Outstanding Questions for CDCR
- Letters from California Men's Colony
- Screen Shots from Shawn

Timeline of Events:

October 28, 2024: Corey Holmes discovered Shawn had a piece of paper which made it clear that Corey was a "confidential informant" against Shawn. Corey told Shawn if he didn't hand over that paper, he and other Blood gang members would beat and rob Shawn. Shortly thereafter, Shawn **asked** staff to go to Ad Seg for safety concerns, given Corey's threat. Correctional Officer M. Catrone was assigned to investigate matters.

October 30, 2024: Frank Perez took over the matter despite it being assigned to M. Catrone. Frank Perez gave Shawn 3 Confidential Disclosure Forms which contained lies, saying Shawn had taken recordings of staff and openly played them on the yard for inmates to listen to. This is a blatant lie and never happened. By the way, the recording device in question was given to Shawn by Corey Holmes. I'm not sure where Corey Holmes got it from, but would suggest Frank Perez as a strong likelihood. In other words, Corey gave Shawn a recording device, collaborated with Frank Perez or Officer Monteiro to set Shawn up to get caught with it, and then told lies about Shawn playing recordings on the yard.

November 7: Institutional Classification Committee takes place. Nathan Gaughan was present. At that time, Shawn asked what CDCR records said about why Shawn was in Ad Seg, and in the committee, staff confirmed CDCR records indicated Shawn was in Ad Seg for disciplinary reasons. Shawn told them at that time he had personally requested going to Ad Seg.

November 8: Due to the fabrications saying Shawn was in Ad Seg for disciplinary reasons, his tablet functionality was turned off, shutting off Shawn's ability to communicate with the outside world.

Outstanding Question for CDCR

1. Why has no one done an investigation into Corey Holmes threatening Shawn's safety and property?
2. What steps will be taken to investigate and address Perez's apparent partnership with gang members, specifically Corey Holmes and others from the Blood gang? (Several months ago, a member of the gang approached Shawn and said a Correctional Officer had asked them to "get rid of" Shawn and they wouldn't do it; the gang reported the CO's request to Shawn – just for context.)
3. What measures are in place to protect Shawn Rodriguez and other inmates who may be at risk of retaliation from staff or inmates influenced by Perez?
4. How will you prevent Perez or others involved from engaging in further acts of intimidation or harm?
5. What training or policy changes will be implemented to prevent similar incidents in the future?
6. How will you ensure transparency and honesty during the investigation and resolution process?

Letters from California Men's Colony

CALIFORNIA MEN'S COLONY

P.O. Box 8101
San Luis Obispo, CA 93403-8101



November 12, 2024

Cotellessa, Angela
6200 Rolling Rd. #523142
Springfield, VA 22152
Email: acotellessa@gmail.com

Control # 9483

Mrs. Cotellessa,

Your letter addressed to California Men's Colony (CMC), Warden D. Samuel, has been forwarded to me for a response.

Within your correspondence, you express concern for Incarcerated Person (IP) Shawn Rodriguez (V16387) regarding his placement in the CMC Restricted Housing Unit (RHU). You claim his placement was due to his safety, however paperwork filed by CMC staff indicate his placement as disciplinary in nature which has limited his privileges in RHU, specifically is Vispath Tablet privileges, have been removed. You further claim IP Rodriguez's disciplinary status in RHU was fabricated to prevent him from reporting the abuses he is experiencing within CMC.

Mrs. Cotellessa, your concern for IP Rodriguez is noted and I thank you for reaching out to express your concerns. On October 28, 2024, IP Rodriguez was placed in RHU pending investigation. IP Rodriguez attended the Institutional Classification Committee on November 7, 2024, to review his placement. The investigation was completed which warranted his presence at CMC was no longer appropriate, as IP Rodriguez no longer meets the criteria for lower-level security placement.

IP Rodriguez will remain in RHU pending adverse transfer. IPs in RHU have limited access to privileges which include tablet restrictions when they have an adverse transfer based on their behavior. IPs still have the ability to use telephones to communicate with individuals. These restrictions are in compliance with California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation RHU regulations.

Submitting a letter directly to Warden Samuel will not expedite a response, nor will it circumvent the proper avenues for review. Should IP Rodriguez be dissatisfied with this response, he is encouraged to continue and exhaust administrative remedies.


M. ROCHA

Associate Warden, Level III Housing
California Men's Colony

CALIFORNIA MEN'S COLONY

P.O. Box 8101
San Luis Obispo, CA 93409-8101



November 12, 2024

Cotellessa, Angela
6200 Rolling Rd. #523142
Springfield, VA 22152
Email: acotellessa@gwmail.gwu.edu

Control # 9490

Mrs. Cotellessa,

Your letter addressed to California Men's Colony (CMC), Warden D. Samuel, has been forwarded to me for a response.

Within your correspondence, you express concern for Incarcerated Person (IP) Shawn Rodriguez (V16387) regarding his treatment in the CMC Restricted Housing Unit (RHU). You claim his placement was due to his safety based on another IP threatening harm to IP Rodriguez due to him playing a recording out on the yard, which you claim is untrue. You document IP Rodriguez's RHU placement is for non-disciplinary reasons and the mislabeling of his disciplinary status in RHU is to retaliate against him for reporting legitimate safety concerns and staff misconduct.

Mrs. Cotellessa, your concern for IP Rodriguez is noted and I thank you for reaching out to express your concerns. On October 28, 2024, IP Rodriguez was placed in RHU pending investigation. IP Rodriguez attended the Institutional Classification Committee (ICC) on November 7, 2024, to review his placement. The investigation was concluded which resulted in a Rules Violation Report (RVR). IP Rodriguez received an RVR for Possession of Dangerous Contraband, specifically a recording device. Per California Code of Regulations, Title 15, Section 3335, IPs whose safety concerns result from their own misconduct or the IP's failure to cooperate with the investigation into their safety concerns may be denied Non-Disciplinary Restricted Housing (NDRH) designation by an ICC. IPs granted NDRH status identifies a separate list of allowable personal property and privileges afforded to IPs housed in RHU for non-disciplinary reasons as affirmed by ICC. IPs denied NDRH status, do not.

Submitting a letter directly to Warden Samuel will not expedite a response, nor will it circumvent the proper avenues for review. Should IP Rodriguez be dissatisfied with this response, he is encouraged to continue and exhaust administrative remedies.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'M. Rocha'.

M. ROCHA
Associate Warden, Level III Housing
California Men's Colony

Screen Shots from Shawn from his Tablet

6:26

Back

SHAWN RODRIGUEZ

Online

LTE

83%

You

6:17 PM

Should I report him?

Sent: 10/28/2024

Approved

SHAWN RODRIGUEZ

6:19 PM

I'm going at 3:45.

Don't be specific, but yes. Later in about an hour, followup with an email.

I'll be in the cage at 3:45 when the building opens again.

I'm literally packing my stuff rn.

Sent: 10/28/2024

SHAWN RODRIGUEZ

6:20 PM

How tf does he know???

I told no one....Its like someone told him what my email said....

Sent: 10/28/2024

You

6:21 PM

His full name?

Sent: 10/28/2024

Approved

SHAWN RODRIGUEZ

6:26 PM

Corey Holmes.

But I'm sure they will tell him and there will be some sort of bitch move from him.

Well see...

Love you.

Sent: 10/28/2024

You

6:28 PM

Can you call me?

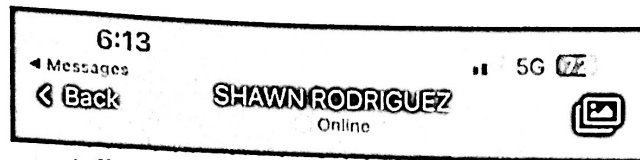
Sent: 10/28/2024

Pending

+

Write a reply

This screen shot proves that on October 28, 2024, Shawn asked to go to the cage around 3:45 pm.



stuff they put in their truck.. And it snags
my hairs and yanks lol
Or access to cleaning supplies... Or a pen
and ga22 so I can write the property cop
and ask for my package...
Speaking of that...
Maybe text Cynthia and have her remind
brny to talk to the property cop about my
package for me? Brny works where he has
his office and is cool with him...

Sent: 10/30/2024

SHAWN RODRIGUEZ 4:44 PM

Its 1:43

Sent: 10/30/2024

SHAWN RODRIGUEZ 6:10 PM

I told you that counselor Perez was behind
this.
He just came to my door and gave me 3
confidential disclosure forms.
Instead of the assigned officer doing the
investigation into Corey Holmes threatening
me, this counselor talked to Corey Holmes
and 2 of his friends, and made it about them
being "uneasy" around me because I
recorded staff.
What a bunch of bullshit.

Sent: 10/30/2024

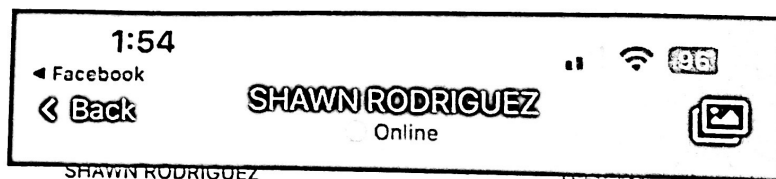
SHAWN RODRIGUEZ 6:12 PM

All 3 disclosures say recording staff.
Like that bothers inmates.
The counselor is apparently trying to make
it OK for his informant to threaten people
and be involved in gang activity.
Wonder what he profits from it....

Sent: 10/30/2024

⊕ Write a reply

This screen shot records that Perez gave Shawn the Confidential Disclosure forms on October 30. Shawn had already been in Ad Seg for safety concerns for two days at that point. It appears Perez leveraged Shawn being in Ad Seg and changed the narrative to suit his goals to harm Shawn.



Right: go along to get along.
And here at cmc, more than anywhere else I have ever experienced, prisoners are also expected to engage in this, now matter how much self flagellation would be involved. And they brainwash guys like Corey Holmes into the mantra that its the only way to get out of prison: protect the interests of staff and their comfort and convenience.

Sent: 11/3/2024

You

12:32 PM

Prisoners are expected to view staff misconduct as normalized and prisoners are retaliated against and penalized if they don't. If they actually use the 602 process, or if their loved ones use reporting mechanisms, we are further mistreated.

And corrupt COs do favors and girts when prisoners go along with their corruption like Corey, who is desperate to get out after being denied parole and willing to do whatever it takes even if it means spreading lies, threatening people who have been friends, and continuing to engage in gang related activities.

Who is the antisocial one here?

Corey. Robinson. Montez. Also Monteiro seems antisocial.

Guess where we are, lol

Sent: 11/3/2024

Approved

You

12:41 PM

⊕ Write a reply

5:17

Back

SHAWN RODRIGUEZ

Offline

Signal

Wi-Fi

Battery

Camera

SHAWN RODRIGUEZ

12:55 PM

Are you busy right now??? They are going to shut my tablet off tonight!! They made me disciplinary....

Sent: 11/7/2024

SHAWN RODRIGUEZ

1:04 PM

Its exactly what I feared it was going to be: correctional counselor 2 Frank Perez hijacked the investigation into my concerns about Corey Holmes and his gang attacking me to get the proof that he's an informant out of my possession... And turned it into me being in the hole for safety concerns as a result of misbehavior..... Instead of the investigation being conducted by officer m. Catron and him talking to real witnesses to find out what Corey did wrong and what is really going on, Frank Perez hijacked the investigation and covered for Corey Holmes and made this about the recording device.....

Sent: 11/7/2024

You

1:10 PM

I'm free right now yes

Sent: 11/7/2024

Approved

SHAWN RODRIGUEZ

1:13 PM

Calling

Sent: 11/7/2024

You

2:12 PM

I'm as ready as I can get. The audio won't be great but it will work. And the internet will work. Call when you're ready

Sent: 11/7/2024

+ Write a reply