

State of Michigan



John Engler, Governor

Department of Corrections

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Bill Martin, Director

DATE: September 29, 2000

TO: Senator Walter North
Representative Charles LaSata

FROM: Roy Piggott, Administrator
Bureau of Fiscal Management

SUBJECT: Lawsuits Brought Against Employees by Prisoners

Section 1117 of PA 92 of 1999 requires that the Department prepare and submit a report summarizing lawsuits brought against employees by prisoners during FY 2000. The information provided herein was gathered through manual review of the Department litigation database and case files. Department records regarding the status of lawsuits are based on information provided by the Department of Attorney General. It is, therefore, possible that some of the lawsuits listed as "open" in this report have been dismissed, but have not yet been so recorded.

The following information is provided regarding lawsuits filed during FY 2000 by prisoners against employees of the Department.

Total Cases Filed: 355
Closed as Nonmeritorious¹: 73
Closed as Meritorious²: 1³
Files Remaining Open: 281

¹Nonmeritorious is defined as closed in favor of employee/Department by either dismissal or trial with verdict in favor of the defendant. The Department is in the process of creating a new litigation database which will, among other things, allow us to be more accurate in matters of closure.

²Meritorious is defined as closed in favor of plaintiff by settlement or trial with verdict in favor of plaintiff.

³This case was regarding a parole revocation. Warden Clarice Stovall was the named defendant. Warden Stovall had no role in the process which was the subject of the litigation and consequently there was no discipline.