

September 17, 2015

Sheriff Kevin Joyce  
Cumberland Sheriff's Office  
36 County Way  
Portland, ME 04102

**Re: Professional visits at Cumberland County Jail**

Dear Sheriff Joyce:

I hope this finds you well. I write to update you on a very unfortunate occurrence that took place last Thursday, September 10, 2015 when I tried to visit one of my clients currently housed at your facility.

I arrived at the jail at approximately 3:45. I do not know the name of the person who was working the front desk, and I apologize for that. As is typical, I waited for the officer working the front desk to be available before I attempted to pass through the metal detector. As I always do, I set the metal detector off because of bracelets and other jewelry on my person. I pointed out the jewelry and was told I had to take it off. I was further instructed that the "new policy" that has been in place for two months and promulgated to all attorneys, requires anyone who goes into the jail to walk through the detector without it going off before being able to go into designated visit rooms, according to the corrections officer on duty.

Despite taking off my jewelry, I continued to set off the metal detector. I then took out my hair clip and removed my shoes; however, I still set off the metal detector. The officer then asked me if I was wearing an underwire bra. Before that could even register, he suggested to me that I go into the bathroom and remove my bra, and then try to pass through the metal detector. Quite candidly, I cannot remember a time when I have been so offended. I told him that I absolutely would not disrobe, and requested to see the person in charge of the policy. As you can imagine, I was quite humiliated and upset.

After several phone calls by the front desk officer, I was told Major Costello was not available. On Tuesday, September 15, I called and left a detailed voicemail for the Major, but he has yet to call me back.

On Monday, September 14, 2015, I met and spoke with Justice Cole about this issue. He indicated to me that I should reach out to you and let you know that he told me to do so.

I am sure that your policy is not meant to discriminate against women attorneys, or harass them in a sexual manner the way I was last week. I am also sure that you are not intending to deprive clients who are represented by female attorneys access to their attorneys, as that would raise Constitutional issues. And I am sure that there is a workable solution that can be achieved.

I will anxiously await your response to this absolutely outrageous situation.

Please feel free to call me at any time to discuss this very, very unfortunate situation that requires your immediate attention.

Sincerely,

Amy L. Fairfield