

MY FIRST YEAR IN A WOMEN'S PRISON

After 20 years in a male prison system I was moved to Women's prison. How and why that happened may be of interest to you.

I was sentenced to a term of Life with out parole for Bank Robbery, Assault, and Weapons convictions. During my trials it came out that I was a Transgender Woman and had been living a secret life. But I was sentenced and sent to a male prison as was the policy back then. I struggled to get treatment for my gender dysphoria, but prior to 2012 I received nothing. In 2012 I started receiving female hormones and anti-androgens , and began the long process of transitioning from male to female. I developed breast's and lived openly as a woman,as part of that process. Living as a woman in a male prison presented many problems and rules and policies prevented me from living a " real life experience" as required for consideration for gender reassignment surgery. I was slowly given some items that female prisoners received like bra's , panties, and some simple basic makeup.

I ended up being transfered several times because the prisons I was in could not handle me living full time as a woman so they got rid of me like a hot potato. The last place I ended up before the women's prison really could not handle me living as a woman, but I asserted my rights and would not back down one bit. They harassed me for wearing my makeup , they confiscated the shower curtain and tried to make me shower in a way that I was visible to other prisoners. And they gave me cellmates who were a threat to my safety in that they were either sex offenders , Gang members, or were so much bigger then me that I could not be able to defend myself against them if they tried to sexually assault me.

MY FIRST YEAR IN A WOMEN'S PRISON CONTINUED

It was suggested to my psychologist that I be put in for a transfer to women's prison. So the transfer was requested through official procedures. I did not expect for it to happen, but I figured it would be a good idea for it to be requested in case something bad happened to me as I expected.

As I was walking the track on the recreation yard, I was summoned to the Lt.'s office. Enroute I was met by a couple of guards and taken to the special housing unit. No one told me what was happening and after I raised hell I was put in a cell by myself and told I would be told in the morning why I was in the SHU. I was very upset, but could not do anything about it.

The next day I was told to get ready to transfer, and it was going to be a women's prison that I was going to. I ended up staying in the SHU till the following Monday because the paper work had not been completed.

Monday I was dressed out and transported by a Male and a Female officer in a car to a women's prison about 90 miles away. I was processed in and placed into the SHU in a cell by myself. I could see and hear the other women so I knew that I was really in a women's prison. I was told that I was going to be transferred to a Women's Medical Center in about a week.

The next week I got on a prison plane and flew to the transfer prison and placed into the women's section, a week later I rode a prison bus to my new home the Women's Medical Center.

I was processed in and placed into the general population with any further ado. My first roommate was a very nice older Lady who had no problem with my being transgender. So I just went about my business as any new prisoner would do. I met a few people and talked to the people who came on the bus with me. People were very welcoming and curious about me.