

Part of my letter to Deputy warden on rule violations

On your complaints- the one that stands out the most to me was the complaint about prisoners yelling to each other- They need to communicate- I will include here the essay of former DOC secretary Rick Raemisch who spent part of one night in solitary- he could not stand it for even one night. Inmates have to yell to be heard through the thick walls and need to communicate to keep a little sane . Others, of course - go nuts with the noise- Solitary , whatever you call it, is torture,

I see the rule violations listed as petty stuff that can be handled with understanding- for example, the standing for count- I am told that the first bell is at 6 am. Why so early? I am also told that the guards start checking the cells right after bell so those in the first cells are often just waking up- the person who told me this says he has an alarm clock and sets it 15 minutes early- can you have two bells- one a warning?

About prisoners blocking their window-I often get complaints from prisoners that there is no privacy- none of us out here would tolerate not having anyway to block the view of others while taking care of our bodies.

For all of this , a discussion needs to be had- - talk to the prisoners- maybe in a group setting - - all these "infractions" have a reason- are addressing a problem- I think you need to understand that problem. These are human beings, most of whom would love to have programs that help them heal and would respond positively to an earnest attempt to at real communication.