

**IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
FOR THE EASTERN DISTRICT OF PENNSYLVANIA**

JOHN DOE,	:	
	:	
Plaintiff,	:	
	:	
v.	:	
	:	
DELAWARE COUNTY;	:	
GEO GROUP, INC.;	:	Case No: 5:22-cv-01405
LAURA WILLIAMS, <i>in her official capacity</i>	:	
<i>as Warden of George W. Hill Correctional</i>	:	AMENDED COMPLAINT
<i>Facility (“GWHCF”);</i>	:	
DEBRA MCFADDEN, <i>in her individual and</i>	:	JURY TRIAL DEMANDED
<i>official capacity as Infectious Disease Nurse</i>	:	
<i>at GWHCF;</i>	:	
KRISTEN GRADY, <i>in her individual and</i>	:	
<i>official capacity as Head of Nursing at</i>	:	
<i>GWHCF;</i>	:	
JOSEPH [LNU], <i>in his individual and</i>	:	
<i>official capacity as a Counselor at GWHCF;</i>	:	
UNKNOWN GWHCF HEALTH	:	
SERVICES ADMINISTRATION STAFF, <i>in</i>	:	
<i>their individual and official capacities,</i>	:	
	:	
Defendants.	:	

AMENDED COMPLAINT

Plaintiff John Doe,¹ through his undersigned counsel, respectfully files this complaint against Defendants Delaware County, Laura Williams, the GEO Group, Inc., Debra McFadden, Kristen Grady, Joseph [Last Name Unknown (“LNU”)], and Unknown

¹ A pseudonym has been used in place of Plaintiff’s full name due to privacy concerns. Plaintiff will file a motion requesting that he be permitted to proceed under pseudonym because he has a reasonable fear of severe harm should his HIV-positive status be revealed. *See Doe v. Megless*, 654 F.3d 404, 408-9 (3d. Cir. 2011) (endorsing a non-comprehensive balancing test, which balances “whether a litigant has a reasonable fear of severe harm that outweighs the public’s interest in open litigation,” and including HIV status as an example of an area where courts have permitted plaintiffs to proceed with pseudonyms).

GWHCF Health Services Administration Staff (collectively “Defendants”), and hereby alleges, on the basis of his personal knowledge and on information and belief, as follows:

INTRODUCTION AND BACKGROUND STATEMENT

1. This is an action brought under Titles II and III of the Americans with Disabilities Act, 42 U.S.C. § 12132 *et seq.* and 42 U.S.C. § 12181 *et seq.* (“ADA”), Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, 29 U.S.C. § 794 *et seq.* (“Rehabilitation Act”), Pennsylvania’s Confidentiality of HIV-Related Information Act, 35 P.S. § 7601 *et seq.*, and applicable state law seeking all available relief to redress the violations of his rights.

2. This action stems from Defendants’ unlawful discrimination in denying John Doe’s participation in the work program at GWHC and its attendant benefits, including loss of a paid work assignment, housing in the workers’ block, and the ability to earn “good time” credits—because of John Doe’s disability as defined under the applicable statutes, HIV, and the unlawful disclosure of his confidential HIV-related information.

3. Additionally, as a direct result of Defendants’ actions and omissions, John Doe suffered emotional distress, humiliation, embarrassment, and other dignitary harms, as set forth below.

JURISDICTION AND VENUE

4. This Court has federal question jurisdiction over the subject matter of this action pursuant to 28 U.S.C. §§ 1331, 1343 because the matters in controversy arise under the laws of the United States. This Court has supplemental jurisdiction over Plaintiff’s state law claims pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 1367 as those claims are so related to Plaintiff’s federal claims that they form part of the same case or controversy.

5. This Court has authority to grant declaratory and injunctive relief pursuant to 28 U.S.C. §§ 2201, 2202 and FED. R. CIV. P. 57, 65.

6. Venue is proper in the Eastern District of Pennsylvania, pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 1391(b)(1) because the events giving rise to the claims occurred in this judicial district, all Defendants were acting under color of state law during all relevant times, and on information or belief, at least some Defendants were employed or conducted business in this district.

PARTIES

7. **PLAINTIFF JOHN DOE** is an adult man who was diagnosed with HIV in January 2020. He, therefore, is living with a disability as defined under the ADA and the Rehabilitation Act. At all times relevant to this action, John Doe was detained at George W. Hill Correctional Facility. Presently, John Doe resides in this judicial district.

8. **DEFENDANT DELAWARE COUNTY** is a municipal corporation organized under the laws of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania. Delaware County maintains and is responsible for the care and custody of pre-trial detainees and persons serving a sentence at the George W. Hill Correctional Facility (“GWHCF”). Delaware County receives federal financial assistance for the operation of George W. Hill Correctional Facility. The operation of GWHCF is governed by the Administrative Code of Delaware County and by the regulations governing correctional facilities issued by the Pennsylvania Department of Corrections.

9. **DEFENDANT LAURA WILLIAMS** is the Facility Administrator or Warden at George W. Hill Correctional Facility in Delaware County, Pennsylvania. She is an employee of Defendant Delaware County and acting under color of state law. The

Warden has contract oversight authority and retains rulemaking and adjudicative powers at GWHCF. Defendant Williams is sued in her official capacity.

10. **DEFENDANT GEO GROUP, INC.** (“GEO Group”) is a private for-profit correctional management company. GEO Group is an international investment trust that invests in private prison and mental health facilities and operates government-owned facilities pursuant to management contracts. As of December 31, 2019, the company managed and/or owned 95,000 beds at 129 facilities in North America, Australia, South Africa and the United Kingdom.² GEO Group’s principal office is located at 4955 Technology Way, Boca Raton, Florida, 33431. At all times relevant to this action, GEO Group managed GWHCF and implemented and enforced policies that govern access to programs and services at GWHCF and confidential medical information, including HIV-related information. GEO Group receives federal financial assistance for the operation of George W. Hill Correctional Facility.

11. **DEFENDANT DEBRA MCFADDEN** was, at all times relevant to this action, an Infectious Disease Nurse at George W. Hill Correctional Facility and an employee of GEO Group, Inc. She is sued in her individual and official capacity.

12. **DEFENDANT KRISTEN GRADY** was, at all times relevant to this action, Head of Nursing at George W. Hill Correctional Facility and an employee of GEO Group, Inc. She is sued in her individual and official capacity.

13. **DEFENDANT JOSEPH [LNU]** was, at all times relevant to this action, a Counselor at George W. Hill Correctional Facility. On information and belief, at the time

² THE GEO GROUP, INC., 2019 ANNUAL REPORT (FORM 10-K) (2019), <https://www.sec.gov/ix?doc=/Archives/edgar/data/923796/000119312520049748/d841729d10k.htm>

relevant to this action, Defendant was an employee of GEO Group, Inc. He is sued in his individual and official capacity.

14. **DEFENDANT(S) UNKNOWN GWHCF HEALTH SERVICES ADMINISTRATION STAFF** were, at all times relevant to this action, employed in the Health Services Administration at George W. Hill Correctional Facility. On information and belief, at the time relevant to this action, Defendants were employees of GEO Group, Inc. They are sued in their individual capacities and official capacities.

15. All of the above Defendants, and those subject to their supervision, direction, and control, intentionally performed, participated in, aided and/or abetted in some manner, the acts alleged herein, and/or proximately caused the harm alleged herein.

STATEMENT OF FACTS

16. In mid-January of 2020, just prior to his incarceration, John Doe was diagnosed with HIV.

17. John Doe is limited in his major life activities and as such is a person with a disability, as defined under the ADA and the Rehabilitation Act.

18. HIV is a physical impairment that without ameliorative measures in place substantially limits one or more major life activities, including but not limited to his immune system.

19. John Doe is limited in his major life activities and as such is a person with a disability, as defined under the ADA and the Rehabilitation Act.

20. John Doe disclosed only to his medical provider and his two closest friends that he was living with HIV.

21. On February 16, 2020, John Doe was arrested on drug possession and paraphernalia charges and detained at George W. Hill Correctional Facility (“GWHCF”).

22. His arrest triggered a Violation of Probation (“VOP”) detainer from Adams County, Pennsylvania, where he was under probation. John Doe remained in custody at GWHCF until a VOP hearing was held before the Adams County judge supervising his probation.

23. During the intake process at GWHCF, John Doe disclosed his recent HIV diagnosis to GWHCF medical staff.

24. At no point did John Doe authorize GWHCF medical staff to share his HIV-related information.

25. On or about a week after arriving at GWHCF, John Doe started on HIV medications for treatment.

26. At GWHCF, John Doe was initially housed on a general population block, where he was open about his sexual orientation and as a result, was harassed by other incarcerated people. He was fearful of the harassment and believed it would lead to violence.

27. John Doe reported this harassment to Correctional Officer Brown. Officer Brown encouraged John Doe to apply for a prison job, which would permit him to move to a workers’ block. Based on his conversations with Officer Brown, he believed that moving to the workers’ block would protect him from the ongoing harassment.

28. In early March 2020, John Doe applied for a job in the GWHCF kitchen. He was soon moved to Unit 6A, a workers’ block.

29. On the morning of March 18, 2020, John Doe was informed by a correctional officer that he was on the list to attend a medical class later that day.

30. John Doe understood this to be an infection control class on food safety and that the class was required to work in the GWHCF kitchen.

31. That afternoon John Doe was permitted to leave his block and to travel to the classroom at the appropriate time. When he arrived at the medical class as scheduled, however, Defendant McFadden, the class instructor, stopped him before he could enter the room. Defendant McFadden told John Doe the class was full and to return to his cell.

32. John Doe believes that Defendant McFadden denied him admission to the class because she had become aware that he was living with HIV.

33. On his way back to his cell after being refused admission to the class, John Doe encountered his Unit Counselor, Oscar Lemus Rojas. John Doe told Unit Counselor Rojas what happened when he tried to enter the class. Unit Counselor Rojas told John Doe that it was his understanding that John Doe had been denied because he was not medically cleared.

34. A few days after Defendant McFadden denied John Doe admission to the class, John Doe was transferred out of the worker block and sent to Unit 8 for a few days. Eventually he was moved to Block 2CX, Unit 102.

35. By the end of March 2020, the COVID-19 pandemic had triggered court closures and delays. Due to the combination of his Adams County detainer and Covid-19 court delays, John Doe expected to be detained at GWHCF for months.

36. Through an informal process, John Doe sought clarification from several GWHCF staff members regarding the status of his application to be a kitchen worker and whether he was eligible for other jobs at GWHCF.

37. John Doe spoke with GWHCF's Psychiatric Nurse Practitioner, Nina [LNU] expressing confusion as to whether he could take the class at another time when it was not full or was prohibited from taking the class for medical reasons. After speaking with Defendant McFadden, Nurse Nina [LNU] informed John Doe that Defendant McFadden had told her that he was "not medically cleared for certain jobs."

38. Nurse Nina [LNU] told John Doe that Defendant McFadden was following up with her Supervisor Defendant Kristen Grady, the Head of Nursing, about his medical clearance. Neither Nurse Nina [LNU] nor Defendant McFadden provided John Doe with any additional information.

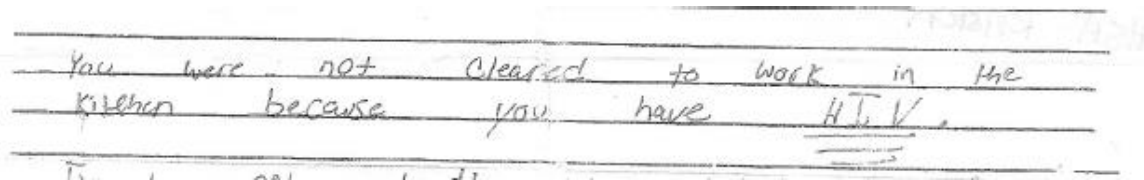
39. On April 9, 2020, John Doe submitted an Inmate Request for Information form to his counselor, asking why he was not medically cleared to work in the kitchen and seeking information about other jobs that might be available to him.

40. Written consent to release Confidential HIV-Related Information

"shall include (1) The specific name or general designation of the person permitted to make the disclosure. (2) The name or title of the individual, or the name of the organization to which the disclosure is to be made. (3) The name of the subject. (4) The purpose of the disclosure. (5) How much and what kind of information is to be disclosed. (6) The signature of the subject. (7) The date on which the consent is signed. (8) A statement that the consent is subject to revocation at any time except to the extent that the person who is to make the disclosure has already acted in reliance on it. (9) The date, event or condition upon which the consent will expire, if not earlier revoked." 35 P.S. § 7607(c)

41. Requesting information related to denial of a work placement does not constitute written consent for disclosure of confidential HIV-related information as required under 35 P.S. § 7607(c).

42. On April 13, 2020, Inmate Jackson, another incarcerated person at GWHCF, hand-delivered the April 9, 2020 Request for Information form back to John Doe. The written response was easily viewable, despite the fact that the bottom third of the form was folded up. On the bottom of the Request for Information form was written, “You were not cleared to work in the kitchen because you have HIV.” HIV was underlined 3 times. The form was signed by Defendant Joseph [LNU] and dated April 10, 2020.



The image shows a close-up of a handwritten note on lined paper. The text reads: "You were not cleared to work in the kitchen because you have HIV." The word "HIV" is underlined three times. The paper has horizontal lines and some faint markings.

43. Neither Defendant Joseph [LNU] nor Inmate Jackson provide medical treatment to John Doe, and neither are part of the Health Services staff.

44. On information and belief, it is Defendants Delaware County and GEO Group, Inc.’s policy or practice to use other incarcerated people to deliver intra-prison correspondences to other incarcerated people.

45. John Doe felt embarrassed and shocked by the emphasis placed on HIV in Defendant Joseph [LNU]’s response. He was concerned that the form disclosed his HIV-related information to Inmate Jackson and to anyone else who had seen it.

46. On the morning of April 14, 2020, John Doe spoke to the nurse distributing medications about the message he had received from Defendant Joseph [LNU]’s in response to his inquiry. The nurse informed him that counselors should not have access to

information about medical conditions of incarcerated people at GWHCF, including HIV-related information.

47. That afternoon, during a medical appointment, John Doe was informed by the Physician Assistant [name unknown] that HIV should not prevent him from working in the kitchen.

48. On April 14, 2020, the Assistant Facility Administrator emailed a Delaware County employee requesting that Delaware County release John Doe on bail or have him enter a plea.

49. On April 15, 2020, John Doe became aware that it had become general knowledge among other incarcerated people on his block that he had HIV, when he heard someone shouting that “102 has AIDS!” This was a reference to John Doe, who was housed in cell 102.

50. Horrified and angered that other people learned that he was living with HIV, John Doe met with Sarah Bowles, the GWHCF Prison Rape Elimination Act (PREA) Coordinator, to discuss his confidentiality concerns and his safety.

51. On April 22, 2020, during a medical appointment, John Doe discussed with Dr. Phillips what had happened. Dr. Phillips confirmed that living with HIV should not prevent John Doe from working in the kitchen. Dr. Phillips said he would write a note to that effect in the computer system and that this would override Defendant McFadden.

52. On April 25, 2020, John Doe filed a “Step 1 Inmate Grievance Form,” as required under GWHCF’s grievance process, regarding both aspects of Defendants illegal conduct.

53. Grievance number 20-04-212, dated April 25, 2020, addressed the confidentiality of his medical information:

“Joe the counselor some how [sic] gained access to my specific medical condition when I wrote to him why I was denied clearance for kitchen and how wrote on the slip back to me the exact name of the condition, that’s not okay, now inmates disclosed they know the condition [...] I’m grieving him for improper disclosure and deformation [sic] of my character.”

54. Grievance number 20-04-213, dated April 25, 2020, addressed GWHCF’s denial of a prison job:

“I never received a job while on Unit 6, I originally applied for the Kitchen, but got denied clearance, but never a reason why, and the counselors never offered me a job that doesn’t require medical clearance. I’m grieving Unit 6 counselors for discrimination and failure to follow prison guidelines & procedures.”

55. On or about April 30, 2020, John Doe received Disposition of Grievance responses to his two grievances, both signed by GWHCF Grievance coordinator Gabrielle Price and dated April 30, 2020.

56. In response to Grievance number 20-04-212, addressing the confidentiality of John Doe’s medical information, Gabrielle Price wrote: “I understand your concern. However, per the HSA, staff is permitted to know the medical condition(s) of inmates”.

57. In response to Grievance number 20-04-213, addressing GWHCF’s denial of a prison job, Gabrielle Price wrote: “In order to be eligible for a job, inmates must attend a medical class. You were on the list to attend a medical class on 3/18/20 but did not show.”

58. On May 7, 2020, John Doe filed two “Step 2 Inmate Grievance Forms.”

59. In response to the answer to Grievance number 20-04-212 addressing the confidentiality of John Doe’s medical information, he wrote:

“They are not permitted to know my particular condition. It’s stated on page 12 of the handbook. Now inmates know and some went run around yelling it out loud to taunt and tease me. It’s bad enough they used it to discriminate [sic] me out of the kitchen but now it’s out there. No administrative remedies can fix this. I’d like to know [who] is responsible. This is HIPPA [sic] law violated, improper disclosure and deformation [sic] of my character.”

60. On May 12, 2020, John Doe submitted an Inmate Request for Information to the then Warden David Byrne (“Warden Byrne”), seeking an update into the investigation regarding both his Step 2 confidentiality and discrimination grievances, as well as his request for policy information from the Health Administration. A few days later, John Doe sent another note to Warden Byrne asking him to confirm receipt of John Doe’s Step 2 grievances and seeking follow-up.

61. On or about May 28, 2020, John Doe received a letter from Warden Byrne, responding to the Step 2 grievances stating that John Doe’s concerns/issues have been addressed and that per policy John Doe did not meet the requirements to work in the kitchen, medical, or as a barber, but he is permitted to work in all other areas within the facility such as clerk, sanitation, maintenance or as any housing unit worker.

62. John Doe filed several additional grievances regarding the unlawful violation of his privacy rights, the discriminatory action of GWHCF to deny him a kitchen job, and the refusal of the Health Services staff to share policies.

63. Rather than address his concerns as required by GWHCF policies and procedures, Defendants responded to these grievances by supplying John Doe repeatedly with additional copies of the May 28, 2020, letter from Warden Byrne.

64. John Doe exhausted the GWHCF grievance process, but the discrimination issue and disclosure of his HIV-related information issue were not resolved.

65. In a June 23, 2020, form signed by Defendant McFadden, it stated that John Doe was not cleared to work in the kitchen or barber shop. In handwriting, it stated that John Doe may work “in any other department.”

66. Defendants failed to conduct an individualized assessment of John Doe and denied him the benefits of the work program including working in the kitchens because he is living with HIV.

67. Defendants have an affirmative duty to make benefits, services, and programs accessible to people living with disabilities. Defendants had knowledge that federal laws protect the rights of people living with disabilities, including HIV, and through their policies and practices, denied John Doe the benefits of public services, programs, and activities solely because of his disability.

68. On or after June 23, 2020, John Doe began a job as a sanitation worker. He continued working in this position until his release from GWHCF on July 20, 2020.

69. Defendants unlawfully disclosed John Doe’s confidential HIV-related information to correctional staff not involved in providing him healthcare and to other incarcerated people in direct violation of both the law and alleged official policies of GWHCF.

70. As a result of Defendants’ disclosure of his confidential HIV-related information, John Doe lost control over private health information with which he had barely begun to grapple and had only shared with his closest friends and his doctor.

71. As a result of Defendants’ disclosure of John Doe’s confidential HIV-related information, John Doe lost confidence that healthcare systems, on which he must depend as a person living with HIV, will safeguard his privacy.

72. Defendants' impermissible handling by its staff of John Doe's confidential HIV-related information led directly to other incarcerated people learning he is living with HIV. As a result, John Doe became the subject of gossip, harassment, and was fearful of potential threats to his safety by other incarcerated people.

COUNT I

DISCRIMINATION ON THE BASIS OF DISABILITY AMERICANS WITH DISABILITIES ACT, 42 U.S.C. § 12101 ET SEQ. (Against Defendants Delaware County and GEO Group)

73. John Doe repeats and re-alleges the allegations in the preceding paragraphs as if fully set forth herein.

74. Because he is living with HIV, John Doe is limited in one or more major life activities. As such, he has a "disability" within the meaning and scope of Title II of the ADA and is entitled to the protection of the ADA which states that "no qualified individual with a disability shall, by reason of such disability, be excluded from the participation in or be denied the benefits of the services, programs or activities of a public entity, or be subjected to discrimination by any such entity." 42 U.S.C. § 12132. Accordingly, John Doe is a member of the class of persons protected by the ADA.

75. "[P]risons fall squarely within Title II's statutory definition of 'public entity,' which includes 'any ... instrumentality of a State ... or local government.'" *Pennsylvania Dep't of Corr. v. Yeskey*, 524 U.S. 206, 210 (1998) (cleaned up). The implementing regulations of Title II clearly contemplate its extension to prisons operated "through contractual, licensing, or other relationships... including private correctional facilities." 28 C.F.R. 35.152(a).

76. Defendant GEO Group managed GWHCF, promulgated and enforced policy on behalf of Defendant Delaware County, and as such is liable under Title II of the ADA.

77. As a detainee at GWHCF, John Doe was a “qualified individual” under Title II of the ADA.

78. Defendants had knowledge of the federally protected rights under the ADA and acted with deliberate indifference by denying Plaintiff the benefits of public services, programs, and activities because of his disability by, *inter alia*, denying him work placement in the kitchens and the benefits of the work program based on a policy or practice, and by failing to provide proper and reasonable training to employees, contractors, or agents of Delaware County and GEO Group.

79. As a direct and legal result of Defendants’ actions and omissions, John Doe was denied participation in the work program at GWHC and benefits of the work program including loss of a paid work assignment, housing in the workers’ block, and ability to earn good time credits. He has also suffered emotional distress, humiliation, embarrassment, loss of dignity, and continues to suffer harm.

COUNT II
DISCRIMINATION ON THE BASIS OF DISABILITY
AMERICANS WITH DISABILITIES ACT, 42 U.S.C. § 12181 ET SEQ.
(Against Defendant GEO Group, Inc.)

80. John Doe repeats and re-alleges the allegations in the preceding paragraphs as if fully set forth herein.

81. Because he is living with HIV, John Doe is limited in one or more major

life activities. As such, he has a “disability” within the meaning and scope of Title III of the ADA and is entitled to the protection of the ADA which states that “no qualified individual with a disability shall, by reason of such disability, be excluded from the participation in or be denied the benefits of the services, programs or activities of a public entity, or be subjected to discrimination by any such entity.” 42 U.S.C. § 12181. Accordingly, John Doe is a member of the class of persons protected by the ADA.

82. Defendant GEO Group, Inc. and its employees administer the work program and other programs and services at GWHCF.

83. GEO Group’s programs and services are public accommodations that operate as other places of education and other service or social service center establishments.

84. Defendant GEO Group, Inc. had knowledge of the federally protected rights under the ADA and acted with deliberate indifference by denying Plaintiff the benefits of public services, programs, and activities because of his disability by, *inter alia*, denying him work placement in the kitchens and the benefits of the work program, and by failing to provide proper and reasonable training to its employees.

85. As a direct and legal result of Defendant GEO Group’s actions and omissions, John Doe was denied participation in the work program at GWHC and benefits of the work program including loss of a paid work assignment, housing in the workers’ block, and ability to earn good time credits. He has also suffered emotional distress, humiliation, embarrassment, loss of dignity, and continues to suffer harm.

COUNT III
VIOLATION OF THE REHABILITATION ACT
29 U.S.C. 794
(Against Defendants Delaware County and GEO Group)

86. John Doe repeats and re-alleges the allegations in the preceding paragraphs as if fully set forth herein.

87. Defendants receive federal financial assistance through multiple avenues, including the Medicaid program, which is jointly funded by the federal government and the state.

88. In administering the work program and other programs and services, Defendants violated John Doe's rights.

89. John Doe is a qualified individual with a disability that substantially limits his major life activities.

90. Defendants Delaware County and GEO Group through their policies and practices discriminated against and caused John Doe to be excluded from participation in programs, services, and activities at George W. Hill Correctional Facility solely due to his disability, in violation of Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act.

91. Defendants had knowledge of the federally protected rights under the Rehab Act and acted with deliberate indifference by denying Plaintiff the benefits of public services, programs, and activities because of his disability by, *inter alia*, denying him work placement in the kitchens and the benefits of the work program based on a policy or practice, and by failing to provide proper and reasonable training to employees, contractors, or agents.

92. As a direct and legal result of Defendants' actions and omissions, John Doe was denied participation in the work program at GWHC and benefits of the work program

including loss of a paid work assignment, housing in the workers' block, and ability to earn good time credits. He has also suffered emotional distress, humiliation, embarrassment, loss of dignity and continues to suffer harm.

COUNT IV
PENNSYLVANIA CONFIDENTIALITY OF HIV-RELATED INFORMATION
ACT, 35 P.S. §§ 7601 *et seq.*
(Against All Defendants)

93. John Doe repeats and re-alleges the allegations in the preceding paragraphs as if fully set forth herein.

94. Defendants impermissibly and without consent disclosed John Doe's confidential HIV-related information, in violation of Pennsylvania law and its own purported official policies.

95. Under Pennsylvania's Confidentiality of HIV-Related Information Act, 35 P.S. § 7601 *et seq.*, certain covered individuals and entities are prohibited from disclosing HIV-related information, without the consent of the subject.

96. Under Section 7603 of Pennsylvania's Confidentiality of HIV-Related Information Act, "confidential HIV-related information" is defined as "any information which is in the possession of a person who provides one or more health or social services or who obtains the information pursuant to a release of confidential HIV-related information and which concerns whether an individual has been the subject of an HIV-related test, or has HIV, HIV-related illness or AIDS; or any information which identifies or reasonably could identify an individual as having one or more of these conditions, including information to the individual's contacts." 35 P.S. § 7603.

97. 35 P.S. § 7607(b) prohibits subsequent disclosure. “[N]o person to whom confidential HIV-related information has been disclosed under this act may disclose that information to another person, except as authorized by this act.”

98. The fact that John Doe is living with HIV is confidential HIV-related information covered by 35 P.S. § 7603.

99. Pursuant to 35 P.S. § 7603, an institutional health care provider is defined as “a hospital, nursing home, hospice, clinic, blood bank, plasmapheresis or other blood product center, organ or tissue bank, sperm bank, clinical laboratory, residential or outpatient drug and alcohol rehabilitation service, mental health facility, mental retardation facility, home care agency as defined in this act, or any health care institution required to be licensed in this Commonwealth whether privately or publicly operated.”

100. Defendants Delaware County, and GEO Group, are “institutional health care provider[s]” as defined by 35 P.S. § 7603 and are subject to the prohibition on disclosure of confidential HIV-related information.

101. Defendants McFadden, Grady, and Unknown GWHCF Health Services Administration Staff are “individual health care provider[s]” as defined by 35 P.S. § 7603 and are subject to the prohibition on disclosure of confidential HIV-related information.

102. Pursuant to 35 P.S. § 7607(f), institutional health care providers have a duty to establish written procedures for protecting the confidentiality of HIV-related information.

103. Defendants Delaware County, and GEO Group, are liable for the conduct of their agents and/or employees.

104. Defendants Delaware County, Williams, GEO Group, McFadden, and Grady failed to assure that their employees and/or agents adhere to statutorily mandated privacy procedures regarding confidentiality and disclosure of an individual's HIV-positive status. Defendant Williams, Defendant McFadden and Defendant Grady are sued in their official capacities.

105. Defendants Delaware County, Williams, GEO Group, McFadden, and Grady failed to enforce their own policies and procedures including the GWHCF Handbook to prohibit the disclosure or subsequent disclosure of John Doe's confidential HIV-information.

106. Pursuant to 35 P.S. § 7607(a)(6), confidential HIV-related information may be disclosed without the subject's consent to "(i)ndividual health care providers involved in the care of a subject with an HIV-related condition or a positive test when knowledge of the condition of test result is necessary to provide emergency care or treatment appropriate to the individual; or health care providers consulted to determine diagnosis and treatment of the individual."

107. Defendant Joseph [LNU] is not an "(i)ndividual health care provider providing emergency care or treatment or consulted to determine diagnosis and treatment".

108. Defendant(s) Unknown GWHCF Health Services Administration Staff, employees of GEO Group, Inc. violated 35 P.S. § 7607(a) when they disclosed John Doe's confidential HIV-related information to Defendant Joseph [LNU].

109. Defendant Joseph [LNU] violated 35 P.S. § 7607(a) when he disclosed John Doe's confidential HIV-related information to Inmate Jackson, who delivered intra-prison correspondence on John Doe's block.

110. None of the exceptions to the state law apply to these disclosures.

111. As a direct and proximate result of these breaches of confidentiality, John Doe's HIV status was impermissibly disclosed. Each disclosure of confidential HIV-related information is a separate violation under the Pennsylvania law.

112. As a further proximate result of this unlawful breach of confidentiality, John Doe has experienced emotional pain and suffering.

113. John Doe continues to experience emotional pain and suffering because he no longer knows who is privy to information he had not consented to be shared.

114. As a person living with HIV, John Doe is dependent on medical care and health systems to maintain his health. John Doe will continue to be dependent on medical care and health systems for the foreseeable future to manage his HIV. John Doe's first experience of receiving HIV-related care led directly to completely losing control over his private medical information. John Doe's confidence that the health care systems—on which he must depend—will protect his privacy has been irreparably damaged.

115. John Doe seeks compensatory damages pursuant to 35 P.S. § 7610.

PRAYER FOR RELIEF

Wherefore, John Doe respectfully requests that this Court enter judgment:

- a. Declaring Defendants' conduct in denying John Doe the opportunity to work in the GWHCF kitchen violative of the Americans with Disabilities Act and Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act,
- b. Declaring Defendants' handling of John Doe's HIV-related medical information violative of Pennsylvania's Confidentiality of HIV-Related Information Act;

- c. Entering injunctive relief enjoining Defendants, their agents and employees from engaging in unlawful discriminatory practices on the basis of disability, including in particular HIV-positive status;
- d. Entering injunctive relief requiring Defendants, their agents and employees, to develop, implement, and enforce a clearly written anti-discrimination policy, ensuring that they will not discriminate against any person living with HIV;
- e. Entering injunctive relief requiring Defendants, their agents, and employees to conduct mandatory training for all staff based on current and accurate information regarding HIV as a chronic but manageable medical condition, HIV transmission and the effect of a low or undetectable viral load on transmission risk, and the appropriate use of universal precautions in the few contexts in which HIV is transmissible;
- f. Entering injunctive relief requiring Defendants, their agents and employees, to develop and implement a written confidentiality policy—to be announced and publicly posted—ensuring that they will not unlawfully disclose private health information, including HIV-related medical information;
- g. Entering injunctive relief requiring Defendants, their agents and employees, to conduct mandatory training for all staff regarding patient confidentiality requirements, which includes a description of the prohibition on disclosure of HIV-related medical information under Pennsylvania law;

- h. Awarding compensatory and actual damages to Plaintiff in an amount to be determined at trial;
- i. Awarding punitive damages to the extent permitted by law;
- j. Awarding reasonable attorneys' fees and costs to the extent permitted by law; and
- k. Granting such other and further relief as the Court deems just and proper.

JURY DEMAND

Plaintiff request a trial by jury on all matters as to which he is entitled by law.

Respectfully submitted,

Dated: June 24, 2022

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***Motion for Pro Hac Vice Admission
forthcoming*

CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

I hereby certify that a copy of the foregoing Plaintiff's Amended Complaint was served via the Court's CM/ECF system on this 24th day of June, 2022, to:

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