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Inmate alleges sexual abuse

A new lawsuit accuses Oregon's prison for women of allowing the sexual abuse of an inmate even though the facility was already under fire for earlier acts of abuse.

The lawsuit filed last week against the Oregon Department of Corrections alleges that two male employees at Coffee Creek Correctional Institution targeted a female inmate for sexual abuse.

The alleged incidents took place between 2008 and early 2012, a period when the Department of Corrections paid a total of \$1.2 million to settle the sexual abuse claims of 17 current and former Coffee Creek inmates.

"You've got the state saying they've made changes and they're doing a better job of training and monitoring, but it didn't deter these guys from doing what they did," said Salem lawyer Brian Lathen, who represents the inmate in the most recent lawsuit and also represented many of the 17 earlier victims.

One of the alleged abusers in the new lawsuit, Shawn Jacob Riley, was arrested in April by Oregon State Police investigators and charged with first-degree official misconduct and second-degree custodial sexual misconduct.

Riley, 38, of Milwaukie is accused of

touching the inmate's breasts and buttocks on several occasions after the summer of 2010. Riley was employed as a maintenance worker at the Coffee Creek physical plant, where the inmate held her prison job.

The second man, a corrections officer called "Mr. Jacques" in the lawsuit, is accused of kissing the inmate, slipping his hands down her pants to grope her, and watching her shower.

Mr. Jacques ultimately performed oral sex on the inmate, and then told her to perform oral sex on him. Lathen said he does not know the officer's first name.

Department of Corrections officials had no comment on the lawsuit, but said steps have been taken to prevent such abuse.

Each DOC facility now has a Sexual Assault Response Team, as well as a hotline number that inmates or their families can use to report abuse, said agency spokeswoman Anita Nelson.

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Riley is the second Coffee Creek physical plant employee to be arrested this year and charged with sexual misconduct.

Oregon State Police detectives arrested Jeremy Joseph Veelle on March 21 and charged him with official misconduct and custodial sexual misconduct after he was accused of having a sexual relationship with an inmate.

Lathen said Monday he expects to file several more lawsuits in the near future detailing further Coffee Creek abuse cases.

“Obviously, not enough has been done,” Lathen said. “When I heard these new incidents were fairly recent I was really surprised, because they were swearing up and down that they had made changes so it wouldn’t happen again.”

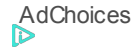
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