

Letter by Prisoner to NV-CURE – Conditions in Double Cells

I want to let you know about something that goes on here at Ely State Prison. Safety and security is supposed to be #1, correct? They are constantly trying to force us to double cell up here and put our safety and security at risk just to fill bed spaces. If one inmate decides to attack another there is *nothing* they can do for the victim until both inmates cuff up. It gets much worse though.

Let's say you have two inmates in a cell and one smacks the other around day in and day out and abuses the victim physically and sexually. The abuser tells the victim if you say anything I will stab you and kill you. The abuser reads the victim's outgoing mail, listens to his calls, and makes sure they both skip showers. How can the prison offer safety and security to this inmate?

The inmate cannot push his emergency button. He cannot stop the correctional officer and say, help me, because they will do nothing while the abuser's cellie is stabbing him to death. They *will not* open the door. Cert's medical will come 10-15 minutes after the whole episode is over and it's too late. The prison can offer no safety and security to the inmates in double cells, and yet they continue to try and force inmates to double cell.

Yesterday, December 3, the head case worker came on the tier along with our unit caseworker and told all the inmates it is now required, per offender management, in Carson City, that you must double cell for sixty days to be considered for transfer. Offender Management in Carson City will not consider transfers unless you prove you can actually live with a cellie.

Living with a cellie on an open yard vs. lockdown facility is two completely separate things. On the yard your door is open all day and you don't have to worry about not being able to seek help if needed. This is just another of their tactics to force us to double bunk. Before, it was taking away our property, etc. I don't know anyone here, nor do I have any friends to cell up with, so what do I do, pick a stranger? Right now there are inmates going through hell in those double bunked cells and nobody cares. They can offer no safety or security and should not be allowed to double bunk us. Period. Guys are sexually abused all the time. PREA should be all over these conditions. Putting a person in a cage with an animal with no way to get help has to be wrong! **

**This letter was typed verbatim from an inmate's handwritten letter.