



PRISONERS' LEGAL SERVICES
OF MASSACHUSETTS

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SAMPLE LETTER TO COURT

REGARDING HUNGER STRIKE OR FORCED MEDICAL TREATMENT

(Date)

Clerk for Civil Business

Superior Court Department

(Name of County) Superior Court

To the Clerk:

I am a prisoner at _____. For the past _____ days, I [have been on a hunger strike] [or have been refusing medical treatment or medication].

I have reason to believe that the Department of Correction has obtained [or may attempt to obtain] orders from your Court which would allow Department of Correction personnel to [forcibly take my vital signs, take my blood, and even to force-feed me] or [to force me to take medications or other unwanted medical treatments]. The Department has, in the past, sought and obtained such orders on an *ex parte* basis -- without any notice whatsoever to the prisoner whose body they seek to invade.

If the Department has filed or does file such an action against me, I would like to be heard by the Court in opposition. I think it would violate my due process rights to grant judicial authorization for any invasive action against my person without giving me the opportunity to be heard by the Court concerning my reasons for objecting to such action

Thank you for your attention to this important matter.

Respectfully,

(Your Name)



(Your address)

cc: Nancy Ankers White
General Counsel, DOC

Depending on which Court you write to, the addresses are:

Clerk for Civil Business	Clerk for Civil Business
Superior Court Department	Superior Court Department
Norfolk Superior Court	Suffolk Superior Court
615 High Street	90 Devonshire St.
Dedham, MA 02026	Boston, MA 02108

DOC General Counsel's address is:

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Department of Correction
70 Franklin Street, Suite 600
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