From: Reynolds, Mary
To: Hodoh, Ofia
Subject: FW: Rhonda Ann Fleming
Date: Tuesday, August 10, 2021 9:33:00 AM

My previous response to another inmate complaining of the conditions In FCI-Tallahassee. They had mold and rodent complaints.

From: Reynolds, Mary
Sent: Wednesday, June 30, 2021 2:51 PM
To: Wilson, Daphne <Wilson.Daphne@epa.gov>
Subject: RE: Rhonda Ann Fleming

Hi Daphne!

Sorry for the late reply! We don't have any jurisdiction over mold or other IAQ issues because there are no federal laws regarding mold. We mostly educate about the causes of mold and mold prevention and refer them to their local/state agencies for inspection. I am unaware of EPA condemning a building from mold, but there might have been an enforcement issue unrelated to mold that she is referring to. I am fairly new to the agency, so I'm not sure who would be in that role to do that. Or the state agency might have condemned the building; people often confuse us. Below is my response. I'm happy to meet if you want to discuss this more!

Mary

Response:

Thank you for contacting the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA). We recommend to contact the Federal Bureau of Prisons to address your concerns with them as well. You may wish to file a complaint with Florida Department of Corrections' Office of Inspector General if you believe there is mismanagement of funds.

Mold:
EPA's website provides information on mold, its effects on indoor air quality and health, and guidance for addressing mold issues in homes. EPA does not test or inspect homes or businesses for mold, nor does EPA maintain a list of indoor air quality (IAQ) consultants to inspect homes or conduct indoor air quality testing. EPA cannot intervene in landlord/tenant issues.

If you are experiencing health effects that you think are attributable to mold in your home, please speak with a medical professional.

If there is a continuous water leak or structural damage caused by water intrusion, your local code enforcement official may be able to help. They may be able to inspect the property to ensure the building is up to code. Each town has their own rules and regulations regarding building codes and can inspect properties that may be in violation of those codes. Usually, there are no mold-specific codes, but there are codes that are related to mold growth (i.e. leaking roof, structural damage). Prisons are unique, and you can contact your local code

enforcement agency to find out more information on which jurisdiction prisons fall under.

You can find more information about state and local laws through the Environmental Law Institute's Indoor Air Quality in Rental Dwellings and Indoor Air Quality Guide for Tenants. The Indoor Air Quality Guide for Tenants offers a starting point for tenants to learn more about indoor air quality (IAQ) in their homes. It describes common IAQ problems, explains what laws might apply to IAQ conditions in rental properties, and suggests where to look for more information and for assistance resolving IAQ problems.

Important Note! The guide does not provide legal advice and is not a substitute for consulting a lawyer about your own situation. Because rental housing laws are different from state to state, the guide does not describe the specific laws of each state or local community. The guide explains how to find out about the state and local laws where you live.

You may wish to contact your local or state health department or your regional and state indoor air contacts to share your concerns.

Rodents/Roaches:
The EPA provides information on our website that explains how to best deal with rodents and deal with cockroaches, and another page that explains how pesticides might not even be necessary for rodent control and pesticides might not even be necessary for cockroach control. If you do decide to use a pesticide, keep in mind that all EPA-registered pesticides undergo a thorough scientific review to ensure that use according to the label instructions will not result in unreasonable risks to human health or the environment. To protect your indoor air quality, it is important to follow the instructions on the label and ventilate the area.

Rodents and roaches can be an asthma trigger. Please visit our asthma triggers webpage for more information. Please speak with a medical professional if you are experiencing these concerns.

The EPA has no authority when it comes to pest infestations at a particular site, nor can we fund or recommend specific on-site pest treatments. You might consider contacting your local health department. Depending on where you live, your local or state governments may have agencies that deal with infestations, typically the local health department.

Again, thank you for contacting the EPA. We hope you find this information useful.

Sincerely,

-----Original Message-----
From: Wilson, Daphne <Wilson.Daphne@epa.gov>
Sent: Friday, June 25, 2021 6:33 PM
To: Reynolds, Mary <Reynolds.Mary@epa.gov>
Subject: FW: Rhonda Ann Fleming

Hi Mary,

I am seeking information regarding a mold complaint. Is there any information or assistance that we can provide this person? I will try to schedule a meeting next week.
Thanks,
Daphne Wilson |Environmental Engineer|
Office of the Regional Administrator |Strategic Programs Office |Environmental Justice and Children's Health Section| U.S. Environmental Protection Agency |61 Forsyth Street, SW |Atlanta, GA 30303
Voice: 404-562-9098 |Email: wilson.daphne@epa.gov Give a hoot . . . don't pollute!

-----Original Message-----
From: (b)(6)(b)(6)(b)(6)(b)(6)(b)(6)(b)(6)(b)(6)(b)(6)(b)(6)(b)(6)(b)(6)
Sent: Friday, June 11, 2021 8:58 AM
To: Wilson, Daphne <Wilson.Daphne@epa.gov>
Subject: Rhonda Ann Fleming

Dear Ms. Wilson:

Thank you very much for responding so quickly. At FCI-Tallahassee, we have a very serious mold, roach, and rat infestation problem that has gotten out of hand.

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First, housing D-Unit was condemned by your agency in 2018. There was no work done on the building. Inmates were moved out of the building and it sat empty until the present warden arrived. Warden Strong opened that building, during the pandemic, placed inmates in that building, and 100% of the inmates assigned to that building contracted the virus.

Why? Because mold makes you cough, gives you a runny nose, and other symptoms that made the inmates more susceptible to the virus.

Money that was sent from the Federal Bureau of Prisons, Central Office, to fix the roofs of housing Units-A & D, was misappropriated, and left me, and about 300 other inmates, sleeping under trash bags whenever it rains. Of course, this lead to the growth of more mold and other toxins from the roof, seeping and dripping into the housing units. The windowsills are covered in mold. The building maintenance staff have been told to paint over it.

And, I want to be clear...the mold is excessive in all of the housing units at FCI-Tallahassee because none of the wardens have ever had a professional come in and do mold remediation.

There are massive patches of mold on the ceilings. I spoke with an inmate in housing unit D-North and she immediately told me that many of them were suffering with hair loss, all over body pain, headaches, runny noses, sudden excessive weight gain, and even memory loss. These are all

symptoms of mold illnesses, to include Chronic Inflammatory Response Syndrome.

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Please send some agents to run test on all of the buildings, to include Health Services, which is also full of mold. How can we receive medical care in a building that is full of mold? That building just had a major leak that caused flooding in all 4 floors of the building.

Please feel free to let the warden know how your agency was contacted. I went to Warden Strong for help and she gave me and several other inmates the brush off. A lot of money has been sent to this prison during the pandemic and none has been spent on bettering our housing conditions.

Most of us are Black and Brown people, so this is truly environmental racism.

Sincerely,

Rhonda Fleming (b)(6)