

06/5/85	Sexual activity, Disrespect of Another, Disobedience of an Order	30 days restrictions of all privileges All counts merged
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Inmate Downs was escorted to the Oregon State Penitentiary (OSP) to attend her Parole Board hearing. Downs had been authorized to confer with an OSP inmate who had been approved as a visitor and her support system for the hearing. Inmate Downs embraced and kissed the inmate. A Correctional Officer ordered her not to engage in any contact with the inmate. Downs then directed hostile and abusive language towards the officer. After the hearing, Downs was being escorted by the officer and she quickly embraced the inmate again and kissed him, directly disobeying the officer's order to not have any contact with the inmate.

07/11/87	Escape	3 years Administrative Segregation
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On 07/11/87, Inmate Downs escaped from the Oregon Women's Correctional Center (OWCC) by climbing a 12 foot chain link fence from the recreational yard. A nurse had reported to work at 8:55 am that day and told an officer that she had seen Inmate Downs hiding behind a pickup on the northwest end of the front parking lot. Downs then ran across the parking lot towards the wooded area across State Street. The officer checked Inmate Downs' cell and found her unaccounted for. An emergency count was conducted and Downs was not found in the institution. On 07/21/87, she was apprehended by police and returned to OWCC.

Program History:

Education:

01/06/86 - 06/15/87	Attended College at OSP Graduated - Associated Arts degree
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Work History:

12/31/84 - 2/26/85	Culinary Worker
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**New Jersey Department of Corrections
11/24/87 - 06/18/91**

Due to Inmate Downs' disciplinary record and high notoriety, Oregon requested an Interstate Compact transfer to out of state. Inmate Downs' transfer was accepted by New Jersey and she was transferred to New Jersey DOC on 11/24/87.

Disciplinary Actions:

01/25/88	Refused to work or accept a program assignment	10 days loss of privileges, suspended 60 days
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No summary provided by New Jersey DOC.

05/17/89 Attempt or Planning an Escape 15 days detention; 365 days Administrative Segregation; 300 days loss of commutation time

Documents reveal that Inmate Downs was planning an escape by soliciting outside help from Robert Seaver, (Downs' approved visitor). Seaver said that Inmate Downs plans for escape were all centered on the South Hall Yard. Seaver turned over numerous items including tapes, letters and transcripts that Downs had given him via the mail wanting him to purchase in preparation for an escape. Seaver voluntarily agreed to a polygraph examination on 05/15/89. Seaver reported that they had discussed numerous escape plans. Some of the plans included that he would hire a helicopter and force the pilot at gun point to land in the South Hall yard while Downs was on the recreation yard. Downs had given him a piece of paper with her listed yard times. He, also, discussed a plan where he would enter the facility undetected via Route 78 and would conceal a weapon near the visiting trailer. He would then retrieve the concealed weapon when he visited her. He indicated he would hire someone to assist in the escape but he would do the "leg work" in preparation for the escape. He admitted to have purchased books on making explosives, he was aware of the fencing and electronic zones and had knowledge of the zones along with the electronic map, housed in a vehicle, that was used to transport him to South Hall for his visits with Downs.

05/09/91 Attempt or Planned Escape 15 days detention; 365 days Administrative Segregation; 365 days of loss of commutation time

During a cell search of Downs' property, staff confiscated an altered light blue jumpsuit, assorted buttons, 3 yards of black fabric, black pouch/purse that was fashioned out of black fabric using a cardboard type material. Some of the items were found concealed under books on a desk shelf and in her closet. The items confiscated could be constructed to resemble a NJ Correctional Officer's uniform.

Program History:

2/2/88-5/31/88 Mini Vocational Sewing Program

Work History:

02/08/88-04/05/88 House person
04/01/88-02/17/89 Seamstress
11/01/88-01/09/89 Evening Crafts
02/20/89-06/14/89 House person
03/13/91-03/20/91 Food Service

Oregon Department of Corrections
6/18/1991- 8/30/1991

Inmate Downs was returned to Oregon from New Jersey for a court appearance to appeal her sentence. She was housed in Administrative Segregation and not eligible for programming or work assignments. Downs was found in violation of a major rule violation during her two and half month Oregon incarceration.

Disciplinary Actions:

07/31/91 Possession, Manufacturing or Use 7 days segregation
 of Dangerous Contraband –
 Escape Device

Inmate Downs was found in possession of a diagram related to the physical layout of OWCC. The diagram outlined the perimeter fence, cameras along the back of the perimeter, inmate yard, multipurpose building, #4 control center, location of Downs' cell in West Hall, facility buildings and directional legend (N-S-E-W).

Washington Department of Corrections
08/30/91 - 03/23/93

Inmate Downs was transferred to Washington under an Interstate Compact agreement based upon her escape history, her history of planned escapes and high media interest. Inmate Downs was housed in the Intensive Management Unit during her entire incarceration in the state of Washington. While confined in Intensive Management Unit, Downs remained disciplinary free and was not eligible to receive programming or work assignments.

On October, 1992 she was placed on suicide watch since she made threatening statements to harm herself. On January, 1993 she was again placed on suicide watch with threats to harm herself, refusing to eat and making comments she intended to be dead within five days.

On 01/21/93, Washington requested Downs return to Oregon due to her attitude and behavior constituted a security risk, the additional amount of staff time required doing daily health assessments based upon her refusal to eat and self harm threats. Washington DOC felt long-term segregation was having a detrimental effect on her mentally and physically.

Oregon Department of Corrections
03/23/93- 08/30/93

Upon Inmate Downs return to the state of Oregon, she was confined in Administrative Segregation. Due to her special housing assignment, Downs was not eligible to receive any programming or work assignments. No disciplinary actions were noted.

California Department of Corrections
08/30/93 – present

On 08/30/93, Inmate Downs was transferred to California under an Interstate Compact agreement. She was placed on Administrative Segregation in the institution's Security Housing Unit (SHU) due to her history of escape attempts and the high notoriety of her case. She was on Administrative Segregation status from 8/30/93 to 9/27/96. Records indicate Downs was dissatisfied with her placement in the Special Housing Unit. California continued to maintain her retention in special housing based upon her escape risk potential. Downs continued to be dissatisfied with her current placement in California Chowchilla Women's Facility SHU even though this is in part for her own protection.

On 9/27/96, Downs was released from special housing to general population with a Close custody level A classification which limits her movements to designated areas. Records reveal she was dissatisfied with her custody level and continued to have "an apparent lack of remorse and denial of her crime." In 1999, her custody classification was lowered to Close custody B. She has remained at this custody level since 1999. Downs is currently satisfied with this custody level which allows her to move freely in general population housing.

Disciplinary Actions:

04/09/94 Attempted Escape 150 days loss of credits

A search of Inmate Downs' SHU cell revealed mortar and caulking from the area around the cell window had been peeled and/or chipped away.

05/24/94 Disobeying Direct Order \$15.00 restitution for baton round fired, counseled and reprimanded

An incident occurred in the SHU recreational yard between other inmates. All inmates were ordered to sit down. However, Inmate Downs did not comply, continuing to walk towards the sally port. Downs was given numerous orders to sit down and continued to walk toward an inmate who was lying in a prone position on the ground. An officer shot a baton round approximately 3 yards in front of Downs to gain her compliance.

07/21/95 Disrespect 30 days loss of credits

During the midnight count, Inmate Downs became verbally disrespectful towards the officer and yelling, "You stupid son of a bitch, I'm going to have you removed from this building for turning the lights on 6 or 7 times a night, just like I did that bimbo Davis."

06/25/98

Refused to Work

30 days forfeiture of credit

While Inmate Downs was working on the B-Yard work crew, she asked the officer if she could work at the facility sally port. The officer told her no, she was not allowed in that area. Inmate Downs became irritated and loud, stating, "I'm tired of this shit." She began to walk towards her unit and threw the shovel she was using into the dirt. Downs continued to say, "Give me an A-day, you can give me a 115 too." Downs was asked if she was reusing to work and she said, "Yes."

11/07/98

Possession of a Hair Braid 30 days loss of yard

A cell locker search revealed a 16" braid of human hair that was blonde in color and wrapped in a maxi pad that was taped inside the inner wall of her locker. During the disciplinary hearing, Downs stated, "I kept the hair to give to my children. It was not meant to be used as a disguise."

08/21/06

Refusing to Report to Work 30 days forfeiture of credit
10 days loss of dayroom/telephone

An officer was reviewing central service worker time cards and discovered that Inmate Downs had been absent from work for 20 days. The officer asked Downs why she hadn't reported to work and she said, "I'd rather not tell you." She was then asked if she was refusing to report to work and Downs said, "Yes, I am refusing to report to work."

Program History:

According to California documents, Inmate Downs has not participated in any educational, vocational, self-help, or clubs throughout her incarceration while in general population from 9/27/96 to present.

While Inmate Downs was housed in special security housing from 8/30/93 to 9/27/96, she was not eligible for assignment to an academic, vocational, treatment or self help program.

Work History:

10/04/96 - 12/31/96	Facility B Yard Crew worker
10/04/96 - 06/30/97	Facility B Yard Crew worker
07/01/98 - 10/29/99	Facility B Yard Crew worker
10/29/99 - 1/21/00	Facility C Yard Crew worker
01/21/00 - 03/18/00	Facility C Program Services CCII Clerk
03/18/00 - 12/31/01	Basic Education (ABE III)/GED Teacher's Aid
04/07/02 - 10/17/02	Yard Crew worker
03/13/03 - 12/31/03	Yard Crew worker
11/09/04 - 06/31/04	Yard Crew worker
03/05/05 - 06/05/05	Canteen worker
02/21/06 - 09/21/06	General Services Clerk (unsatisfactory work performance rating)
10/28/06 - 09/27/08	Porter

On 09/25/08, Inmate Downs was removed from general population housing to Administrative Segregation for her own protection. A letter was found revealing threats towards her safety. After further investigation, Downs was released back to general population housing on 10/02/08. As a result of her housing change, she was removed from her Porter job noted above on 09/27/08.

Inmate Downs is currently unemployed. She is on a waiting list for a clerk position in Office Services.

Inmate's statement regarding her present attitude:

On 9/19/2008, a telephonic interview was conducted with Inmate Downs. Those present during the interview were: Inmate Downs' California Counselor, Veronica Plata and Oregon Department of Corrections, Office of Population Management staff Betty Ruiz and Karin Potts. Inmate Downs was interviewed regarding her present attitude towards the following:

- **Society:** Inmate Downs reported her family resides in the state of Texas and has family support from both her parents and siblings. She indicated she can reside with her parents in Texas and work for her brother in real estate.
- **Sentencing Judge:** Inmate Downs did not express any feelings regarding the sentencing judge in her case. She indicated that she has had no contact with the Judge or media regarding the Judge.
- **District Attorney:** Inmate Downs expressed "enormous respect" for the District Attorney since he adopted her children and raised them after her conviction. She stated the District Attorney has not said any negative words against her and she felt he has raised her children well. She reported that her son is no longer in a wheelchair and her daughter is currently in college.
- **Arresting Police Officer:** Inmate Downs said Officer Doug Welch was a detective for about three months at that time of her arrest and that she did not have as much respect for him as she did for the District Attorney.
- **Previous criminal career:** Since Inmate Downs did not have a previous criminal career with DOC, Downs was questioned about her escape record during her present incarceration. Inmate Downs stated, "That was a long time ago, my record is clean." When questioned if she had received any misconduct, she replied, "yes."

Extent to which the inmate has responded to efforts made in the institution to improve her mental and moral condition

Within a few months of her inception to Oregon Department of Corrections, Downs began involving herself in disciplinary actions. Approximately a year later, Downs began attending college, eventually earning her Associates of Arts Degree in June 1987. While attending college, her progress reports indicated positive ratings. One month after earning her AA degree, Downs escaped OWCC by climbing over the perimeter security fence. After she was apprehended, she began serving three years in Administrative Segregation. Her security housing made her ineligible for programming or work assignments.

While incarcerated in New Jersey, Downs continued to involve herself in disciplinary actions that resulted in two more escape attempts, where she served two separate one year periods in Administrative Segregation. When she was not housed in Administrative Segregation, Downs was employed and was also involved in a vocational training sewing program for a brief period of time.

Inmate Downs was returned to Oregon due to a court appearance in 1991. Within six weeks of her return to Oregon, she continued to engage herself in disciplinary actions. She was found guilty during a disciplinary hearing for Possession of an Escape Device for having a diagram of the physical layout of OWCC. She did not attend programming or was employed during this Oregon incarceration.

Inmate Downs was then transferred to the state of Washington. While in Washington she was classified at Maximum custody and was incarcerated in the Intensive Management Unit due to her escape history. As a result of her housing assignment, she was unable to participate in programs or work assignments. She remained disciplinary free throughout her Washington incarceration. In October 1992 and January 1993, Downs was placed on two suicide watches. Washington documents revealed that due to her attitude and behavior of continued security risk, they requested her return to Oregon.

In March 1993, Downs was returned to Oregon for five months while Oregon was arranging for another Interstate Compact transfer. Downs was at Maximum custody and confined in Administrative Segregation. Due to her special housing assignment, Downs was not eligible to receive any programming or work assignments. No disciplinary actions were noted.

In August 1993, Downs was transferred to California and placed in their Maximum Special Housing Unit. She received three major disciplinary actions while housed in SHU. As a result of her special housing assignment, she was not able to participate in programming or work assignments.

On 09/27/96, Downs' classification was lowered to Close custody level B which resulted in her being released from SHU to general population housing. Since this change, Downs has been gainfully employed in work assignments. Her work performance ratings indicate she has had average, above average or exceptional ratings. She is described as a good worker, a self starter with good organizational skills. In 2006, she received an unsatisfactory work performance rating when she refused to work, and received a disciplinary sanction.

Throughout her yearly agency program reviews, records reveal she continues to adamantly deny her crime and shows an apparent lack of remorse. At times, she even refused to appear for these program reviews.

Downs has not participated in any educational, vocational, self-help, or clubs while in general population for the past 12 years. She has also received three disciplinary sanctions, the latest in 2006. Correctional Counselor V. Plata, stated that Downs can participate in programs. Program availability includes: NA, AA, Parenting, Education, Substance Abuse classes, Meditation classes, Anger Management and Vocational programs (Office Services, Optical, Refrigeration, Welding, Cosmetology, Mill/Cabinetry and Auto Mechanics).

During a telephonic interview with Downs on 11/19/08, Downs was questioned about her program and work history. Downs expressed that she has not taken any programs because "there was no benefit to me." Downs states she reads and studies politics and human nature. Downs stated "it's a job" on how to survive in prison. Downs said "if the Parole Board had wanted me to take programs they should have stated that earlier." Downs also reported that "Oregon law guidelines do not show that programs are necessary to satisfy the Parole Board." She further added, "If I was in Oregon, this would not be required of me." Her closing interview statement was, "I have been left to vegetate all these years but I appreciate the last minute completion of the report."

Inmate Downs' escape history has been severe during her 25 year incarceration. Downs has physically escaped from a secure perimeter fence, planned three escape attempts, and was found in possession of an Escape Device. Due to this behavior, she had been housed in Special Housing Units and ineligible to participate in programming.

