



**Your on the
Street Reporter**



Uyless Black

It's all in the Head

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Pittsburg County, Oklahoma---“A Wilburton [Oklahoma] man was mocked and needlessly denied medical care by jail officials while suffering a 91-hour erection...according to a \$5 million lawsuit filed on his behalf.”

Medical help was denied because it was not readily available, as few doctors had any experience treating men with erections. They did have considerable experience treating men with the opposite condition.

“Dustin Lance alleges in his civil rights lawsuit that he suffered permanent injury after employees of the Pittsburg County jail ignored his pleas for medical care while he was suffering from a continuous erection.”

To get to the heart...okay head...of this matter, the jail officials did not create Mr. Lance's erection. They were innocent bystanders, although amazed bystanders, witnessing an event worthy of an entry in *Ripley's Believe it or Not*.

“Lance, in his petition...says his troubles began...when, while incarcerated in the county jail, he ingested a pill offered to him by another inmate...he says he made jail personnel aware the next day that he was suffering ‘unbearable pain’ as a result of his condition.”

But was his condition life-threatening? Some males might have considered the condition as life-enhancing. Of course, it is well-known that there can be too much of a good thing.

“The lawsuit names as defendants Pittsburg County Sheriff Chris Morris, the Pittsburg County Board of County Commissioners, three county sheriff's deputies, a nurse, and up to 10 other unnamed individuals.”

What about the person who gave Lance the pill that gave Lance his labored lance? After all, he was the party that started this mess. For unpublished reasons, this pill dispenser was not named in the lawsuit.

“Jail employees transported Lance...to McAlester Regional Hospital, where doctors said they were unable to treat Lance's condition and indicated that he required immediate transfer to a urologist in Tulsa, according to the lawsuit.”

The dilemma re-surfaces. Even a team of doctors did not know how to treat a prolonged erection. But the doctrine of a doctor is to administer to the patient. The record in the court shows the doctors administered medicine, but its contents were not publicized. A tranquilizer or morphine shot? *Doc, I'm hurting, bad! Give me anything in your medicine cabinet for penis pain.*

So, what did the various people in charge of Lance and his ailing lance do? Incredibly, “Rather than transport Lance to a Tulsa hospital, Pittsburg County officials returned the 32-year-old to the jail, where they arranged for him to be released on his own recognizance, according to the lawsuit.”

Own recognizance? I looked up two definitions of being released on one's own recognizance.

- Definition One: A person charged with a crime is allowed to remain free without posting bail, as long as they sign a promise to appear in court and not commit any illegal acts.

- Definition two: A release, without the requirement of a posting bail, based on a written promise by the defendant to appear in court when required to do so.

¹ Quotes are from several sites on the Web.

The crime which put Lance in jail is not documented in material this reporter has examined. It could not have been a crime for having an erection, as having an erection is not necessarily a crime---of course, depending on when and where the erection takes place. And Lance was already in jail when he got his erection.

A reasonable conclusion is that the jail officials wanted to get rid of Lance and his problematic lance, and used the “own recognizance” rule as an excuse.

“After his release, Lance was taken to the other hospital where a urologist operated, but could not prevent permanent injuries, including impotence that will likely be lifelong.”²

A Dead Person can’t Sue

Somehow, the county officials, assuming or hoping Lance was dead, “filed a motion that [sought] to dismiss the lawsuit on the grounds that the case [was] improperly being brought by a dead person.”

Ignoring their professional obligation to observe and promote justice and fairness, the government personnel had released Lance, then went along (or created) “language in the petition that [indicated] Lance [was] deceased, county officials [said] a representative of Lance’s estate should have brought the lawsuit if, in fact, he [was] dead.”

Judge to jail-bird: *Lance, You’re dead, so I am releasing you on your own recognizance.*

“Jon Williford, an attorney who filed the lawsuit, said in an email to the *Tulsa World* that Lance had not died and attributed the reference to his client’s demise to a ‘scrivener’s error.’” (An error in a legal contract that can be corrected by oral evidence.)

Upon this case coming to the public’s attention, with the notion that Lance was dead, even though he was not, pundits offered headlines such as, *Cause of death: Excessive Blood in the Head*, and so forth.

In the final analysis of this case, what cannot be denied is that Lance took the pill on his own accord. Humans all too often shirk their obligations. People need to take responsibility for their own erections.

² <https://www.prisonlegalnews.org/news/2021/nov/1/lawsuit-over-denial-medical-treatment-painful-erection-causing-impotence-oklahoma-county-jail-reinstated-tenth-circuit/>.