
No Right to Cross-Dress in State Penitentiary

In *Long v. Nix*, 1995 WL 96864, an Iowa federal district court held that a male Iowa state penitentiary inmate asserting a 42 U.S.C. § 1983 action had no federal constitutional right to be permitted to cross-dress or to receive medical treatment for his gender dysphoria. Quoting *Estelle v. Gamble*, 429 U.S. 97 (1976), the court noted that an 8th Amendment violation occurred where the state acted with "deliberate indifference" to a prisoner's serious medical need. Finding the extent of the inmate's gender identity disorder insufficient to constitute a serious medical need, the court observed that the inmate was motivated by the need for both female gender identity expression and sexual stimulation, and the latter stimulus was not of protectable magnitude. Summarily rejecting the inmate's 14th amendment due process claim, the court declared that the inmate had no property or liberty interest in either particular medical care or a specific prison classification. R.M.
